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Chairman: Mr. Galluska (Czech Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 109: Advancement of women (continued)
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A/54/124, A/54/156-E/1999/102, A/54/156/Add.1-
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**Agenda item 110: Implementation of the outcome of
the Fourth World Conference on Women (continued)**
(A/54/124, 264, 354)

1. **Ms. Chong** (Brunei Darussalam) commended the United Nations on its prominent role in addressing women's issues, citing in particular the contributions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW).

2. Rural women had been particularly affected by the volatile financial markets resulting from globalization, as highlighted in the report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/54/123-E/1999/66). It was therefore to be hoped that the special session of the General Assembly to be held in the year 2000 to measure the degree of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action would help to improve national programmes.

3. **Ms. Nyamsuren** (Mongolia) said that her country attached great importance to the upcoming special session, which should be the occasion for reaffirming international political commitment to the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Human Development Reports prepared by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) would, in addition, serve as useful guidelines for defining new initiatives in the spirit of the Fourth World Conference on Women. Mongolia supported the work of the Commission on the Status of Women and of the Economic and Social Council in implementing the Platform for Action. It also welcomed the Council's adoption of the ministerial communiqué on employment, poverty alleviation and the empowerment and advancement of women.

4. Since the Fourth World Conference on Women both Governments and non-governmental organizations had stepped up activities on behalf of women. In Mongolia, the national preparatory committee for the Beijing Conference had been transformed into the Mongolian National Committee for the Implementation of the Decisions of the Beijing Conference, and a National Programme for the

Advancement of Women had been created. Their priorities were to alleviate the poverty of women, enhance social protections and the social security safety net, improve well-being within the family, strengthen bonds between older and younger generations, and ensure respect for human rights and freedoms. The Programme's goal was to create equal opportunities for women in the areas of peace, health, education, decision-making and participation in political, social and economic life. In addition, Mongolia's population policy sought to ensure their participation in development. The Mongolian National Poverty Alleviation Programme also emphasized the principle of gender equality.

5. Her delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/123), which rightly pointed out that women's participation in the agricultural sector was under-reported, and agreed that further comparative research on that issue was greatly needed. Women made up 50.4 per cent of the total 2.4 million population of Mongolia and 45.1 per cent of the female population lived in rural areas and led a nomadic or semi-nomadic way of life. The transition to a market economy had brought opportunities and challenges for the rural population, especially for women. The privatization of livestock had turned herdsmen into owners, improving their economic status. On the other hand, the dismantling of the Government-subsidized social safety net had negatively affected conditions of life. A survey of living standards conducted in 1997 had estimated that over 25 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line, mostly in rural areas.

6. The Government was therefore taking measures to distribute livestock to poor rural families, especially households headed by women. Furthermore, non-governmental organizations were also focusing their efforts on improving the economic viability of rural women; the Women's Federation of Mongolia had, for example, set up microcredit funds in all 21 provinces. Projects had been launched on information supply, training, microcredit and employment, and 586 new jobs had been created.

7. Mongolia welcomed the strong international commitment to the empowerment of women and intended to sponsor a draft resolution on the situation of rural women.

8. **Ms. Pokharel** (Nepal) said that her Government associated itself with the statement presented by Guyana speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. Nepal welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women (A/54/264) and acknowledged the efforts of the United Nations system to contribute to women's empowerment with a view to

achieving sustainable human development and enforcing human rights.

9. Nepal had recently submitted its initial report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and viewed the adoption of the Optional Protocol as a milestone in the protection and strengthening of women's rights. It was encouraging both governmental and non-governmental bodies to make special efforts to prevent all forms of violence against women. It urged the international community to provide support for the rehabilitation of refugee women, displaced women, and women who had been victims of violence. Furthermore, Nepal was determined to work with other countries to combat trafficking in women and children in South Asia, and anticipated that a regional convention on that subject would be adopted at the upcoming summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

10. In Nepal, the Ministry of Women and Social Welfare was aiming in particular to resolve the educational gender gap through programmes designed to increase women's access to formal and non-formal education, and was considering the establishment of a women's commission. Non-governmental organizations as well as private and social associations had also been deeply involved in improving the status of Nepalese women by creating an environment that would encourage their participation in national and local decision-making. The Constitution stipulated that within each political party, 5 per cent of the candidates for seats in the House of Representatives must be women; an electoral provision likewise established that 20 per cent of elected posts at the local level must be reserved for women. Nepal was committed to integrating women into all aspects of national development over the long term.

11. **Ms. Blajan** (Romania) said that her Government associated itself with the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union. In the view of Romania, the Fourth World Conference on Women had had a great impact on government policies and on the activities of international organizations in the development of new strategies and solutions for the realization of women's equality and human rights. The special session should provide an excellent opportunity to assess the implementation of the Beijing commitments, and should give new impetus to national efforts to overcome obstacles. In that connection, her delegation welcomed the adoption of the Optional Protocol which should, in its view, enhance the capacity of the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to fulfil its mandate.

12. Romania had taken firm steps to fulfil the commitments it had undertaken in Beijing, and planned to present a detailed account of women's advancement and gender equality policies during the consideration of its fourth periodic report to CEDAW in June 2000.

13. The Romanian authorities had elaborated, and had begun to implement, a national action plan the main objectives of which were to create and develop institutional machinery for policy coordination in the area of women's advancement; to improve the economic situation of women; to equalize their access to the labour market, better their working conditions, and enhance their control and use of economic resources; to prevent and control violence against women and children; and to integrate the concept of gender equality into all areas of social, cultural and educational life. A national mechanism had been created to implement those goals at the governmental and parliamentary levels. The work of the Romanian Ombudsman on behalf of children, women and families was expected to contribute to the success of those efforts.

14. Two significant new laws had been drafted and were currently on the parliamentary agenda: the first provided for equal opportunities for women, prohibited sex-based labour discrimination, defined and prohibited sexual harassment, and established conditions for job advertising and acquisition; the second provided for paternal leave, with a view to equalizing the participation of fathers in taking care of newborns, and promoted the principles of shared involvement in family life and shared responsibility for the rearing and educating of children.

15. With the valuable support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Government had also established a programme on women's right to health in the workplace and to reproductive health, and had taken measures to combat violence against women within the context of a broader strategy designed to control violence, especially in the home. In addition, in close collaboration with human rights non-governmental organizations, it had set up a pilot centre to assist and protect victims of family violence. It had found that cooperation between Government and social organizations was crucial in addressing discriminatory practices against women.

16. Romania valued its cooperation with the Division for the Advancement of Women, the Commission on the Status of Women, CEDAW, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and the International Training and Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW). It was convinced that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action required

close collaboration between Governments, civil societies, international organizations, and the United Nations system. In that regard, the "Women 2000" special session of the General Assembly should provide the occasion for the international community to work together to achieve full respect for women's rights.

17. **Ms. Leonce-Caryl** (Saint Lucia), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that it associated itself with the statement presented by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action had, however, met with less success than had been desired. Women, who made up the greater percentage of the population and the work force, bore the brunt of poverty, unemployment, illiteracy, and other social ills. Seventy per cent of the world's poor were women.

18. In order to implement the twelve critical areas of concern, CARICOM had chosen to focus its subregional efforts on specific areas of the Platform for Action: women and poverty, education, health, and violence against women. Efforts to combat the problem of poverty were hardened by a lack of data. As the Platform for Action contended, poverty could not be eradicated without access of all women to resources, opportunities and public services. Realizing that education for the economic and social development of women was also significant, educational and training programmes for women and girls were being conducted throughout the subregion. Measures were also being taken to formulate national domestic violence policies, which called for training programmes for police, lawyers, social workers, the clergy, and health-care workers. Most CARICOM countries had signed and ratified both the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Inter-American Convention on the Eradication, Punishment and Prevention of Violence against Women. CARICOM welcomed the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the first-mentioned Convention and supported its early entry into force.

19. For the implementation process to move forward, remedies must be found for the widening gap between developed and developing countries. In the latter, poverty and unemployment were increasing, life expectancy was dropping, and social problems like teenage pregnancy, prostitution and illiteracy were on the rise. In the view of CARICOM, the Platform for Action failed to deal adequately with the impact of globalization and of social, cultural, gender and developmental policies on women's lives.

20. **Mr. Zmeevsky** (Russian Federation) said that there had been many positive developments since the Fourth

World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995). The realization of women's rights, the attainment of gender equality and the implementation of the commitments made at Beijing were viewed as priorities by the international community. The idea of integrating the gender factor in all spheres of United Nations activities had become a reality. His delegation welcomed, in particular, the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Russian Federation had participated actively in the drafting of the Optional Protocol and looked forward to its rapid entry into force.

21. As a result of globalization, the current financial crisis had affected the entire world economy. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition had been particularly hard hit, and, within those countries, women had suffered most. In the Russian Federation, the crisis had led to the decline of production and sharp increases in unemployment and inflation. His Government was seeking to mitigate the social cost of the crisis by increasing social assistance to teachers, doctors and other public-sector workers, most of whom were women, and by taking steps to ensure regular payment of the child benefit. In the light of the impact of the crisis, the Russian Federation was proposing that the international community should consider establishing a mechanism to manage the process of globalization.

22. The international community must make a concerted effort to combat the problem of female poverty. Countries with economies in transition required international support for job creation programmes targeted at women and initiatives aimed at promoting female entrepreneurship and enhancing women's managerial skills. The Russian Federation had welcomed the inclusion of recommendations in the ministerial communiqué on the role of employment and work in poverty eradication: the empowerment and advancement of women adopted at the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council's substantive session of 1999 that addressed the social and economic problems facing women in those countries.

23. Regrettably, the number of women in the world affected by armed conflicts and other crises had not diminished. High priority must be given to preventive diplomacy and measures to avert humanitarian catastrophes. At the same time, initiatives to minimize human suffering must be undertaken in a manner consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and sanctions regimes should in future take account of the adverse impact of sanctions on women and other vulnerable groups.

24. The Russian Federation hoped that the special session of the General Assembly in June 2000 entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" would result in a broad consensus regarding the steps needed to build on the strategies agreed at the Beijing Conference to promote the advancement of women. It had welcomed the balanced resolution on the organizational aspects of the preparations for the special session adopted by the preparatory committee in March. It was concerned, however, that work on the text of the concluding documents of the special session had yet to begin and that the modalities for participation by non-governmental organizations had not been determined. The successful outcome of the special session would make an important contribution to the full realization of women's rights.

25. **Mr. Cherif** (Tunisia) said that his delegation was gratified by the adoption by the General Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. It was concerned, however, that the progress made towards the realization of the goals articulated at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995) had been uneven. Women's plight was most acute in regions afflicted by poverty, illiteracy and marginalization. His delegation was convinced that social and economic development and the advancement of women went hand in hand and that women could act as catalysts for development. The international community also had a role to play by supporting developing countries in establishing an environment conducive to the fight against poverty.

26. His Government was committed to the promotion of women's rights. Under the revised Constitution, the principles of equality and non-discrimination on grounds of gender were guaranteed. The Code on Personal Status and the Nationality, Labour and Penal Codes had been amended so as to eliminate all provisions that discriminated against women. His Government sought, in its approach to women's rights, to preserve the traditional cultural values that were central to Tunisian identity, while embracing the universal human values that characterized modern society.

27. Within the framework of its educational reforms, his Government had taken a number of measures to cut drop-out rates among girls. It was also seeking to increase the number of young women receiving vocational training. Various initiatives had been undertaken to enhance women's social and economic integration, and reproductive health care had been made an integral part of basic health services.

28. In order to address the 12 critical areas of concern identified in the Beijing Platform for Action, his Government had established a number of priorities, including the strengthening of women's economic potential, the reduction of female poverty and the improvement of women's living conditions, the elimination of gender stereotypes, the protection of the girl child, the enhancement of women's participation in their communities, the protection of women migrants, the development of statistics disaggregated by gender, and the building of international cooperation.

29. **Mr. Manele** (Solomon Islands) said that, under the Constitution, fundamental rights and freedoms were guaranteed to all citizens of the Solomon Islands irrespective of gender. Most women, however, were unaware of their legal rights, and their political participation was low. Those problems must be addressed in order to enable women to contribute to decision-making and to the country's overall development.

30. More than 80 per cent of Solomon Islands women lived in rural areas and were engaged in subsistence farming and fishing. Major obstacles to women's advancement were low literacy rates among females (17 per cent) and low school enrolment figures. His Government therefore accorded high priority to education and human resources development, strongly supported the proposed launching of a United Nations decade to eradicate illiteracy and looked forward to the World Education Forum to be held in Senegal in April 2000 and to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), to give substance to those international initiatives at the national and regional levels.

31. His Government had recently adopted a national women's policy. The Division of Women and Development in the Ministry of Youth, Women and Sports and the National Council of Women, which were the main implementing agencies, would work in partnership with civil society, including non-governmental organizations in general and church groups in particular. In the Solomon Islands, church women's groups provided the only formal assistance available to many women, especially those living in rural areas.

32. Lack of resources and weak coordination were the major obstacles to the effective and timely implementation of national women's programmes. Capacity-building through training and education was critical. There was also a need to raise awareness among women of regional and international programmes of action. His delegation wished to acknowledge, in that connection, the assistance of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute

for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) in conducting the National Training Seminar on Women, Environmental Management and Sustainable Development in August 1998 in Honiara. INSTRAW's current financial difficulties must receive the support necessary to enable it to expand its activities and it must be addressed.

33. The Solomon Islands was committed to the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The adoption of its national women's policy had been a positive step in that direction. Given the limited national capacity in the areas of data collection and analysis, the Solomon Islands would require technical assistance from the Secretariat to enable it to fulfil its reporting obligations under article 18 of the Convention.

34. **Ms. Ramirez** (Argentina) said that her delegation associated itself, first and foremost, with the statement presented by Mexico on behalf of the countries of the Rio Group, and in particular with its remarks on preparations for both the special session of the General Assembly and the Eighth Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

35. Her Government noted that the Argentine public lacked a clear awareness of the power relationships between men and women, and in particular, of the obstacles blocking their participation on a par with men in the production process and in the distribution of wealth. Her Government hoped that the question of the elimination of traditional and cultural stereotypes which impeded women's access to leadership positions would be vigorously addressed during the "Women 2000" special session.

36. The financial crisis confronting the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) had necessitated drastic decisions, among them the closing of the New York liaison office. Argentina supported the economic restructuring of the Institute because it would improve its efficiency and help to surmount the crisis. INSTRAW was the only institution devoted to investigation and training in the area of women's advancement; it should not be dismantled for financial reasons.

37. Under the terms of the Platform for Action, UNIFEM had the task of increasing options and possibilities for the economic and political development of women. To that end, it had strengthened its links with other bodies and was offering technical assistance at both the regional and international levels. For two decades, it had supported innovative and experimental activities that benefited women in over 65 countries. The Argentine Liaison project, for example, had set up an information network for official

institutions and civil associations, with a view to democratizing and streamlining the flow of information into and out of the country.

38. The great challenge of the twenty-first century was to overcome the practical obstacles to the advancement of women and to combat age-old discriminatory patterns affecting women not only as individuals but as a group by instituting specially designed educational campaigns. Argentina applauded the recent adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention and supported its rapid entry into force.

39. The Argentine delegation hoped that the Ad Hoc Committee responsible for formulating an international convention against organized international crime would also draft a protocol on the traffic in women and children. Argentina had actively participated in that undertaking and would continue to do so. The Government also hoped that the coming century would bring with it the continuing advancement of women within the Secretariat.

40. **Mr. Akinsanya** (Nigeria) said that his delegation wished to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The recent adoption by the General Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women would provide women throughout the world with an effective mechanism for the protection of their rights under that instrument. Nigeria had ratified the Convention in 1985 without reservation. Since the presentation to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women of Nigeria's combined second and third periodic reports on the implementation of the Convention in 1998, his Government had taken steps to address the problems identified by the Committee, in particular the persistence of harmful traditional practices that affected the health of Nigerian women and girls.

41. His Government had established a new Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs and Youth Development, headed by a female Minister, to enhance coordination on women's programmes. In addition, there were Ministries of Women's Affairs in each division of the country which worked with non-governmental organizations on gender issues. Some division workshops had been organized to develop strategies for the implementation of the commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, 1995), while the Federal Ministry of Women's Affairs had published simplified manuals on the 12 critical areas of concern set out in the Platform for Action.

42. Other measures to promote the advancement of women included the broadcast of a video on the problems of early marriage; the relaunching of the universal basic education scheme; improved access to health care for expectant mothers; the dissemination of information on family planning and child-spacing with a view to improving the overall health and quality of life of women; and the raising of awareness through posters, leaflets and media discussion of the need to elevate the status of the girl child.

43. With the recent transition to democratic rule in Nigeria and with women already occupying leadership positions in the private sector, there had been an appreciable increase in the number of women appointed to high-level posts in Government and elected to representative organs.

44. The special session of the General Assembly in June 2000 should highlight the progress made since the Fourth World Conference on Women and identify further initiatives that would advance the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. The adoption of a short visionary declaration reaffirming the commitment of the international community to the Platform would give renewed impetus to that process.

45. **Ms. Aftab** (Pakistan) said that notwithstanding some positive trends, women continued to be victims of discrimination and violence both within the family and in society at large, and their contribution to society remained largely unrecognized. They constituted the majority of the world's poor, and two thirds of the world's illiterates, making them vulnerable to exploitation. Their plight was even worse in situations of armed conflict. Rape had been used as a weapon of war in Africa and in the Balkans, and was being used in Kashmir even now. The international community must condemn India's barbarity in Kashmir.

46. Pakistan had finalized its national plan of action, which covered all 12 critical areas identified in the Beijing Platform for Action and had been developed with the participation of non-governmental organizations, women's organizations and social scientists. Under that plan, the Ministry of Women and Development would coordinate the efforts of provincial women's development departments and other agencies to encourage the participation of women at all levels. The plan focused on universal access to education with the aim of achieving 100 per cent school enrolment and eliminating the gender gap by 2003. Job generation and the creation of a conducive environment for business opportunities were regarded as the best tools to overcome the feminization of poverty. Another priority was universal access to basic health care including reproductive health care, particularly in rural areas. The latest statistics indicated

that child mortality for girls had improved over the past decade. A campaign had been launched to educate the public about the social costs of violence against women, and to educate women about action to be taken against offenders. Crisis centres for victims of violence had been established in all major cities. In addition to programmes to promote social awareness about women's rights, the Government was engaged in a continuous process of reviewing discriminatory legislation.

47. **Mr. Augustus** (Rwanda) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

48. Women constituted the backbone of the Rwandan economy, which was mainly based on agriculture: 97 per cent of women depended on farming for their subsistence. Some 60 per cent of women were widows. Women and girls had suffered the worst atrocities during the 1994 genocide, and many who had witnessed and endured rape, torture and brutality were still traumatized. Many households were now headed by widows who lived in abject poverty. The Ministry of Gender, with a woman at the helm, in collaboration with the World Health Organization and friendly countries, had undertaken the rehabilitation of the victims of rape and was providing medical assistance and trauma counselling. Resources were urgently required to provide shelter, support and income-generating activities for women, as well as legal representation to secure their rights.

49. Women were well represented in the legislative and judicial systems and in key posts in government and the Parliament was currently working on a bill to amend the inheritance and land ownership laws so as to eliminate discrimination against women. The Government had supported the establishment of a women's communal fund, which targeted poor women who did not have access to bank loans, and had set up a guarantee fund for middle class women through a commercial bank, giving priority to projects offering employment to women.

50. His Government had established women's councils providing a forum for women to participate in all areas of national development and accelerate their empowerment. It was establishing popular tribunals which would enable the local population to participate in the adjudication of genocide cases and crimes against humanity committed in Rwanda; 30 per cent of the members of the tribunals would be women.

51. **Mr. Suh Dae-won** (Republic of Korea) said that despite some gains, women were still encountering numerous obstacles, including those engendered by

economic crises and conflict situations. Governments and civil society must form a partnership in applying new codes of conduct and behaviour. Political will and commitment were essential to all initiatives for the equal treatment of women and gender mainstreaming. In that connection, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific planned to organize a high-level intergovernmental meeting in Bangkok in October 1999 to review the regional implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

52. His Government was formulating policies with a special emphasis on women's rights and empowerment. In 1999, it had enacted the gender discrimination and relief act, which prohibited gender discrimination in employment, education, the use of services and facilities, and the application of laws and regulations, and provided for investigation and corrective measures. It had enacted other laws to further strengthen the enabling environment for Korean women to participate in economic activities.

53. **Ms. Odera** (Kenya) said that her delegation fully associated itself with the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

54. The women's bureau, which was the government agency for women in Kenya, had initiated the process of implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by distributing a training manual to promote gender sensitization at the district level and help formulate district specific action plans. In December 1997, a national conference to review progress had revealed that major obstacles continued to impede implementation.

55. The women's bureau was in the process of preparing a national policy document on gender and development and had taken an active role in promoting gender mainstreaming in the public sector by holding seminars for leaders of government ministries.

56. The bureau was currently developing gender monitoring indicators for the implementation of the Platform for Action. As more and more gender disaggregated data became available, it had become clear that women were critical to national development endeavours. Statistics showed that female-headed households constituted 47 per cent of the rural and 29 per cent of the urban population living below the poverty line, and that women represented a disproportionate share of the agricultural labour force, but controlled only 38 per cent of its operations. Unfortunately, the participation of women in decision-making had not matched the widespread democratization which was under way in Kenya: women represented only a small percentage of members of parliament and administrators, although there

had been a slight increase in the number of women in the judiciary. The disaggregated data put her Government in a better position to assess gender disparities, target interventions and monitor the impact of policies. All statistics pointed to the need to involve women in every aspect of sustainable development. Despite overwhelming obstacles, women continued to play major productive roles in both the formal and particularly the informal sectors.

57. Kenya expected that the implementation of the recommendations of the World Summit for Social Development through the national poverty eradication plan would enhance the advancement of women, particularly if the targets in the fields of education, health and poverty were met. However, any further action would hinge on its ability to mobilize resources and strengthen capacity-building at the local, national and international levels.

58. **Ms. Afifi** (Morocco) said that while strategies for gender equality had unquestionably brought about progress in the affluent societies, in poor societies like those in Africa, where socio-economic problems were particularly acute, the situation of women was alarming: poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and associated ills had further marginalized women and deprived them of their most elementary rights.

59. Morocco had made constant efforts to achieve harmonious development and remedy social disparities in the status of men and women. In particular, the Government had organized a national campaign to combat violence against women, in collaboration with non-governmental organizations. Despite sociocultural and historical obstacles, Morocco was implementing a national strategy aimed at the integration of women into development and the national plan of action adopted in March 1999 reflected all the objectives identified in the Beijing Platform for Action. Women were now present in all areas of national life, including key posts with responsibility in the legislative, executive and judicial spheres.

60. **Ms. Joseph** (Sri Lanka) welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and expressed her delegation's hope that Member States would proceed to its early ratification.

61. As mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/123-E/1999/66), globalization and declining international cooperation in development had exacerbated the marginalization of rural women in developing countries. Her delegation therefore particularly supported the recommendations contained in paragraph 79 of the report.

The special needs of elderly women in rural areas also deserved attention.

62. At the national level, the Sri Lankan Government wished to draw attention to the establishment of a number of government mechanisms dealing with child protection, migrant women, women in free trade zones, population and reproductive health, and tobacco and alcohol, as well as a mobile service catering for problems of rural women. The Women's Committee responsible for the implementation of a Women's Charter modelled on the Convention was involved, *inter alia*, in reviewing legislation and conducting gender sensitization programmes for civil servants. It had also established a mechanism for receiving complaints of discrimination; judicial redress would be further facilitated by a law on equal opportunities which the Government was proposing to enact.

63. The Ministry of Women's Affairs, was responsible for implementing Sri Lanka's national plan of action for furthering the goals of the Beijing Conference and had established focal points in other ministries to monitor gender mainstreaming in government policy. The Ministry was supported in its work by United Nations agencies and bilateral donors, and had recently received a pledge of substantial financial backing from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

64. Concerned that the plight of women migrant workers was being overlooked, her delegation expressed the hope that the requisite number of countries would ratify the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families in order that it might come into force by the year 2000.

65. **Ms. Rasheed** (Observer for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)) said that the rights-based approach adopted by UNICEF required enhanced analytical and programming skills to assess root causes of problems facing women and children as well as a better understanding of the linkages between their problems and the human, financial and organizational resources needed to resolve them. The specific commitments from developing countries and the donor community to expand basic social services called for at the international meeting on the 20/20 initiative held at Hanoi were essential to realizing the goals set at Beijing and Cairo.

66. UNICEF saw the expansion of girls' education as the key to fulfilling the rights of girls and women. The Fund had been collaborating in efforts not only to improve access to schools, but also to remove underlying structural defects rooted in gender discrimination and inequality. In the area of maternal mortality, UNICEF was working with its

partners — notably the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) — to promote women-friendly health services and an enabling environment for change.

67. For the Beijing and Cairo goals to be achieved, it was necessary to break the "conspiracy of silence" surrounding HIV/AIDS and its impact on past gains in women's health and development. Thus far, the pandemic had caused 8 million children to be orphaned; the figure was likely to rise to 40 million by the year 2000. Moreover, women disproportionately shared the burden of that tragedy. With a view to effecting the necessary changes in behaviour and practice, UNICEF had been fostering close partnerships with community groups, families, young people, care providers and those with HIV/AIDS.

68. It was important to be mindful of the many challenges which lay ahead. As many as 600 thousand women continued to die each year in pregnancy, and 600 million women were illiterate. All Member States must be urged not only to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and to withdraw reservations as a matter of urgency, but also to translate international commitments into action. Strong partnerships between United Nations agencies, civil society and Governments had been proved crucial to the effectiveness of interventions. In that connection, the judicial colloquium being convened in Vienna by the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) was most welcome.

69. UNICEF was also involved at regional and national levels in preparing for the special session of the General Assembly and planned to convene special events at that session on themes relating to gender equality. UNICEF had also focused on capacity-building for gender mainstreaming and had developed gender focal point networks in all regions. Furthermore, UNICEF had issued a guide on gender mainstreaming throughout the programme cycle in line with the Secretary-General's call for specific strategies to be developed in that area. Greater attention was also being paid to the adults of the future through interventions in early childhood to ensure gender equality, with the role of parents and the community increasingly being highlighted.

70. **Ms. Gertrudis-Davis** (Equatorial Guinea) said that her Government had established a Ministry of Social Affairs and the Status of Women, headed by women, to improve the situation of the family and ensure the participation of women in decision-making. Women were now a major presence in the legislature and the judiciary, and participated actively in the national armed forces. Progress was often hindered

by lack of resources, however, and by sociocultural difficulties inherited from the past.

71. The 1997-2001 medium-term economic strategy covered three main areas: health, education, and the economic sector. The objectives were to achieve nutritional coverage of the most vulnerable sector, reduce maternal and infant mortality, and ensure the supply of clean drinking water; eliminate female illiteracy in rural areas and provide vocational training in urban areas, and educate women about their rights; and reduce poverty, provide small loans to women's rural cooperatives, and increase employment. Various non-governmental organizations were working with the Government to achieve those goals in the social sector.

72. **Mr. Bhattacharjee** (India), said that his delegation wished to associate itself fully with the statement made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. The adoption of the Optional Protocol represented an important milestone in the advancement of women. India also strongly supported the revitalization of INSTRAW.

73. At the national level, his Government was committed to improving the status of women and had prioritized the girl child. A number of institutional mechanisms existed for promoting women's rights in line with international human rights instruments, *inter alia*, a Department of Women and Child Development which gave particular attention to rural women; a National Commission for Women which revised legislation, addressed allegations of discrimination and provided an umbrella for policy formulation based on international human rights instruments; a Parliamentary Committee for the Empowerment of Women which monitored gender mainstreaming; a national women's fund which provided credits and grants to impoverished women in the informal sector; and a Central Social Welfare Board which worked through more than a thousand voluntary organizations.

74. As part of efforts to combat violence against women, women cells had been established in police stations and women's participation in law enforcement had been upgraded. At the village level, gender-specific social support services had become widespread. Women's empowerment featured prominently in the Government's five-year plan. In central government, there were now significant numbers of women ministers. Large numbers of female candidates had been elected to manage village affairs — a development unthinkable earlier. Indeed, public awareness was growing that even rural women had their rights, duties and responsibilities. Given that India resided in its villages, his delegation welcomed the concerns expressed by the

Secretary-General in his report on rural women (A/54/123-E/1999/66).

75. On the negative side, globalization was only increasing marginalization of the poor, accentuating income disparities, eroding job security and affecting access to health services and education. Moreover, the growing insecurity of communities carried the potential to disintegrate whole societies. In developing countries particularly, the likely impact on women's advancement, of bleak economic growth prospects, environmental degradation and pressure on land was a further cause for alarm. The worst casualties would be health (particularly reproductive health), hygiene and education.

76. If the social development agenda did not succeed, the advancement of women would be at stake. Similarly, without accelerated implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, no social development or integration could take place. The impact of globalization was such that transnational corporations whose offshore activities offered job opportunities for women insisted on investment conditions which diluted social standards and subverted local laws protecting the rights of the individual. Developing countries could not hope to create an enabling environment for women's rights when the international environment worked against them. In that context, international cooperation was crucial.

The meeting rose at 5.40 p.m.



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Chairman: Mr. Galuška (Czech Republic)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 109: Advancement of women (continued)

(A/54/3, A/54/38/Rev.1 (Suppl.), A/54/98, A/54/123-E/1999/66, A/54/124, A/54/156-E/1999/102, A/54/156/Add.1-E/1999/102/Add.1, A/54/224, A/54/225, A/54/341, A/54/342, A/54/352, A/54/405)

Agenda Item 110: Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women (continued)

(A/54/124, A/54/264, A/54/354)

1. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan) said that his delegation believed that the system-wide plan for the advancement of women for the period 2002-2005 would make a significant contribution to the advancement of women worldwide. It attached great importance to the activities of the Division for the Advancement of Women and welcomed the decision of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to allocate financial resources for the Division's operational activities. It commended the Office of Human Resources Management upon its decision to identify future recruitment goals in terms of geography and gender and believed that the Office should take concrete action to seek out female candidates from unrepresented and under-represented countries.

2. His Government was developing effective mechanisms to increase women's integration in social and political life and expand their representation in leadership posts. With the participation of non-governmental organizations, it had elaborated a national action plan for the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action. It had prepared a comprehensive report on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women which had been submitted to the Division for the Advancement of Women.

3. Globalization had exacerbated economic and social disparities and caused particularly severe problems for women. Maternal health was not improving, and the maternal mortality rate was growing steadily. The situation was especially acute in the severely degraded areas of the former nuclear test site of Semipalatinsk and the Aral Sea, where there was an increase in the number of women suffering from anaemia as well as respiratory and diarrhoeal infections.

4. The international conference on the rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region, held in Tokyo in September 1999, had been of great importance for Kazakhstan in broadening cooperation with partner organizations for the benefit of the people affected by the legacy of almost 500 nuclear tests.

5. **Ms. Nguyen Thi Thanh Ha** (Viet Nam) said that her delegation supported the statement made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

6. It was no accident that poverty was considered the first critical area of concern in the Beijing Platform for Action. To alleviate poverty and improve the quality of life for women, charity work was not enough. Women needed to be actively involved in income-generating activities, and have equal access to economic resources and means of production. Employment contributed to poverty reduction and promoted gender equality, and it was the business of Governments to work out effective strategies for expanding employment opportunities.

7. In Viet Nam, the majority of women worked in agricultural or informal sectors, where it was hard to earn a decent and steady income. Measures to improve women's access to resources such as credit, technology and marketing techniques were urgently needed. In 1998, her Government had developed a revolving fund of 450 billion dong to provide loans for 11,000 small projects, which had created employment for 250,000 urban workers, 60 per cent of whom were women. The State Bank of Viet Nam was developing a plan to provide women with access to credit programmes and funds. The Viet Nam women's union, a non-governmental organization, was promoting a nationwide campaign of mutual assistance among women, in establishing savings funds to provide loans for women entrepreneurs.

8. Investing in the education of women and girls was an important component of the poverty alleviation programme. Advances in women's education led to increases in women's participation in the formal labour force, enhanced productivity and development, and strengthened the incentives for households to invest in girls' education. Her Government attached importance to the eradication of illiteracy, improvement of education and vocational training, and increasing enrolment of women at all levels of education, with special attention to girls from poor families.

9. As part of the poverty alleviation programme, there was a wide network of communal health care in Viet Nam, and various United Nations agencies were cooperating in providing health care and family planning services to people in remote areas and poor rural communities.

10. **Ms. Zewdie** (Ethiopia) said that her delegation also associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

11. Her Government had incorporated the basic objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action into the national women's policy and had established the necessary institutional framework for mainstreaming a gender perspective in economic and social activities. The women's affairs bureau in the office of the Prime Minister was responsible for coordinating the activities of women's affairs units of the Government.

12. Although the number of women parliamentarians had increased, the number of women in the political field was still small. The women's affairs bureau had set the goal of 15 per cent participation at the federal level and 20 per cent at the district level in the elections in May 2000. In the economic sphere, women were benefiting from land redistribution programmes, agricultural extension services and microcredit facilities. In some regions, women were being supported by a food production programme financed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). A national strategy had been formulated to create an enabling legal and institutional environment for the growth of microenterprises, most of which were run by urban women.

13. A gender planning guideline had been developed, to be used as a tool for mainstreaming gender in the process of project planning, implementation and evaluation. The health policy had given special attention to the health needs of the family, particularly women and children. Primary health services were being expanded, particularly in rural areas, and goals had been set to increase the availability of contraceptives and reduce the maternal mortality rate.

14. Government institutions, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other international organizations as well as non-governmental organizations, were conducting intensive awareness campaigns about the harmful effects on women's health of traditional and customary practices, including early marriage and female genital mutilation. Those campaigns were gradually yielding the desired results.

15. The participation of women decreased as the level of education increased. To alleviate the problem school curricula for primary schools and the teacher training curriculum had been revised to make them gender sensitive. The Ministry of Education planned to increase the number of female teachers by 35 per cent in 2001 and the enrolment rate of girls to 45 per cent in the same year.

16. To ensure the full enjoyment of civil and political rights by women measures were being taken to draft new laws and regulations and to revise the family code, the labour law and the pension law. Her Government was also

taking steps to combat violence against women in cooperation with non-governmental organizations. A national committee on rape and abduction had been formed to formulate a strategy.

17. A working committee had been established to assess the problem of the trafficking of women for export to foreign countries and recommend solutions. It would consult with the countries concerned on how to protect the rights of women who worked abroad and prevent them from becoming victims of violence.

18. There had been tangible improvements in the participation of women in political, economic and social activities, but changes remained marginal primarily owing to lack of capacity. Ethiopia hoped that, with the support and assistance of the international community, it would be able to achieve its goals.

19. **Ms. Durrant** (Jamaica) said that her delegation associated itself with the statements made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and by Saint Lucia on behalf of the Caribbean Community.

20. Her delegation was concerned about the extent to which international and national efforts to advance the objectives of the Platform for Action continued to be threatened by several factors, including armed conflict, globalization and liberalization. Her delegation welcomed the reference in the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/123) to the need for further research to quantify and explain the impact of poverty on women, especially in rural areas. Another concern for her delegation was the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) pandemic and the need to prepare societies, including children, for the challenge they would have to confront.

21. Her Government welcomed efforts to revitalize the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) which needed the support of all Member States. The research conducted by the Institute during the 1998-1999 biennium testified to the significance of its role. National institutions involved in research on women's issues must work closely with the Institute to disseminate the results of their research, so that all States could better assess the progress being made in the implementation of the Platform for Action. The work of INSTRAW must be closely coordinated with the United Nations University and other research and training institutes within and outside the United Nations system, with due regard for the Institute's role as the focal point for research on gender issues. Through continued collaboration with other organizations like the United Nations Development

Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the common objective of the advancement of women's rights and benefits might be achieved.

22. Her delegation welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General to improve the status of women in the Secretariat, but feared that the target of 50/50 gender distribution within the Secretariat was not likely to be reached before 2012. It urged Member States to present qualified women candidates for positions in the Organization.

23. Jamaica, like all the countries in the Caribbean, had made great strides in the advancement of women over recent decades in business and the professions. In the area of education, however, gender stereotyping resulted in women being largely trained for traditional lower-paying female jobs.

24. The bureau of women's affairs — the lead agency responsible for follow-up action to the Beijing Platform for Action — had taken various initiatives in a number of areas, including violence against women, women's health, institutional strengthening, education, and employment. A computer link had been established with women's bureaux in other CARICOM countries to strengthen regional collaboration.

25. **Mr. Yusoff** (Malaysia) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

26. Women in Malaysia benefited from government development policies that did not discriminate on grounds of gender. The 1989 national policy on women formed the basis for efforts to fully integrate women in the development process. His Government was giving priority to increasing the participation of women in power-sharing and decision-making, promoting their economic potential, enhancing their legal position and eliminating violence against them.

27. Malaysia attached great importance to the participation of women in the labour market, in their access to educational and training opportunities, in women's health matters and in the review of laws and regulations that discriminated against women. The department of women's affairs ensured that women's interests and concerns were taken into account and that development programmes did not have a negative impact on women. Seminars, workshops, and meetings were often organized by the department, as well as gender sensitization training for government officials and planners.

28. His Government contributed funds and technical assistance to non-governmental organizations that played an active and effective role in advocating equality of status for women and equal opportunities for the participation of

women in development. The national council of women's organizations of Malaysia played a key role in achieving that objective.

29. Women in Malaysia were protected by legislation on domestic violence, inheritance, guardianship and consumer protection. His delegation agreed that one of the major impediments to the achievement of gender equality was stereotypical attitudes towards the gender roles of women and men; laws and regulations would not achieve their objectives if women were socially discouraged in their efforts to advance their rights.

30. **Mr. Ortega Urbina** (Nicaragua) said that notwithstanding constitutional guarantees of equal treatment for women, instances of physical, psychological and sexual violence against women and girls frequently occurred in his country. To combat that phenomenon, the Government had set up special police stations for women and children with a view to preventing, punishing and eliminating such violence and provided professional psychological, medical and legal care for the victims. In addition, a standing committee had been set up within the National Assembly on women, children, youth and the family, with the mandate of amending and/or adopting relevant legislation.

31. Two contrasting female stereotypes had traditionally existed in Nicaraguan society: woman as mother, and woman as sex object. The educational system, especially in rural areas, tended to perpetuate those stereotypes, and thus helped to perpetuate the subordination of women. In practice, work done by women continued to be undervalued; women earned less than men for the same job and were generally barred from decision-making positions.

32. The subject of women had been accorded greater attention in recent years, however, as the women's movement had gathered force, and Government officials were becoming aware of the issues. Efforts were now being made through educational campaigns and gender-awareness workshops to eliminate discriminatory social stereotypes. In pursuance of present policy, reflecting the consensus of government and non-governmental organizations, sex education and gender equality must be taught in the country's schools and institutions, the object being to inculcate responsible attitudes towards sex to avoid sexually transmitted diseases and to promote family and religious values. In the economic sphere, the Government had established alternative programmes and policies to assist women in funding and managing small businesses and a Women's Institute whose mission was to create economic opportunities for women.

33. Having ratified numerous international legal instruments relating to the rights of women, including the Convention, the current Government had created the Ministry of the Family to monitor, promote and defend the institution of the family through social anti-discrimination programmes, with emphasis on ensuring the participation of women in the development process.

34. **Ms. Barghouti** (Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine) said that the twentieth anniversary of the Convention and the adoption of the Optional Protocol should inspire the international community to take practical action towards the advancement and empowerment of women. Her delegation wished to stress that all twelve critical areas of concern set forth in the Beijing Platform for Action must receive equal attention, among them "the effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women, including those living under foreign occupation".

35. In addition to discrimination, violence and poverty, Palestinian women faced the harsh oppressive reality of the Israeli occupation on a daily basis: the construction and expansion of illegal Israeli colonial settlements, the confiscation of land and water, and the recurrent closing of the borders of the occupied Palestinian Territory, which included Jerusalem. The political situation uniquely determined the status of women in that territory, and affected the level of their advancement. It should also be noted that more than half the Palestinian population was made up of refugees, displaced persons and disintegrated families.

36. The Platform for Action and the results of the Arab Ministerial Conference held in Amman in 1996 had together formed the basis for a national strategy aimed at satisfying the particular needs, priorities, and resource constraints of Palestinian women. That strategy was founded on the principles of the Palestinian national programme, which called for the attainment of the inalienable rights of Palestinians, including the right to self-determination, the right to return to their homeland, and the establishment of an independent State. The peace process — which hinged on the Israeli Government's willingness to respect and implement agreements concluded on the basis of international law — had a profound effect on the lives of Palestinian women. Palestine hoped that the signing of the Sharm el-Sheikh Memorandum would propel the peace process forward and strengthen the ability of Palestinian women to participate in decision-making and development.

37. **Mr. Al-Malki** (Qatar) said that women elected to parliament would have exactly the same political rights as men. They already enjoyed free education, free health care and free housing while government assistance was given to

those in need. Non-governmental organizations also provided significant social and material support to the family. His Government was particularly proud of the role played by the Family Development Institute, which provided training for women and enabled needy families to become economically self-reliant. His country hoped that the goals and aspirations of the special session to be held in June 2000 would be realized, while at the same time the cultural and traditional differences between peoples were respected. While beliefs and traditions should not be imposed on others, the international community must remain multicultural.

38. **Ms. Elisha** (Benin) said that the regional conference held in Benin in July 1999 on the preparation of reports by States parties to the Convention had helped to raise awareness in Benin and the surrounding region regarding the importance that the United Nations ascribed to the advancement and promotion of women. On the basis of the principle that to promote women meant to promote the family, Benin had ratified all international instruments regarding women, and participated in international women's forums. In its view, the true challenge lay in translating political will into action.

39. In Benin, rural women were constantly subject to the vicissitudes of poverty, a situation exacerbated by illiteracy and ignorance. They lived without electricity and drinking water and cooked over wood fires, which harmed both their health and the environment. In addition, they suffered the adverse effects of polygamy.

40. The Secretary-General's report (A/54/123-E/1999/66) noted that rural electrification programmes in Benin had failed because they required capital-intensive technology. That argument was difficult to accept in view of the ability of the international community to respond rapidly and efficiently to other kinds of emergency situations, and demonstrated a lack of political will and interest on its part. The price of electrification projects should not hamper the production of energy in rural areas, since cheaper alternatives, such as solar energy, were available. Benin exhorted the international community to mobilize its resources to curb the dire poverty in rural areas.

41. In Benin, mothers were driven by abject poverty to place their children with other guardians for the child's survival, or for remuneration. The children were subject to every kind of violence, abuse, and trafficking, both domestic and international, and many became pregnant at any early age. Although a draft law on the placement of children within the national territory was to be adopted soon and should eliminate the abuse of such children, it would be

difficult to dissuade parents from the practice of selling children if dire poverty persisted.

42. The legal status of women in Benin remained precarious despite the ratification of a number of international instruments because the clash between contemporary law and customary law hindered the advancement of women. In addition, Beninese legislation prohibited abortion and the dissemination of birth control information. With a view to remedying those problems, the Beninese Government had formulated draft laws on rape, genital mutilation and the voluntary interruption of pregnancy, and had tabled a draft code on individuals and the family in the National Assembly. It was also conducting awareness campaigns about genital mutilation. By waiving school fees for girls in rural areas the Government had succeeded in raising the enrolment rates for both girls and boys between 1994 and 1998. It expected to achieve a 60 per cent enrolment rate for girls by the year 2000, and a 50 per cent literacy rate for women by the year 2015.

43. Benin had five female members of Parliament, two female party leaders, two women members of the constitutional court, and one female mayor. In addition, 26.8 per cent of the public service corps was made up of women, and 14.1 per cent of managerial positions were occupied by women. The high rate of illiteracy, the burden of household duties, the weight of social tradition, and the reluctance to take leadership roles all constituted obstacles to the advancement of women. In order to emancipate Beninese women of the future, major impetus must be given to girls' and women's education.

44. **Mr. Khaleel** (Maldives) said that the Maldives recognized the pivotal role played by women in the development process and was steadfastly working to bridge the gender gap by empowering women. The new Constitution of that country provided a comprehensive legal framework for the advancement of women's rights, and prepared the ground for the Maldives to consider amending its reservation to the Convention.

45. The Maldives was working closely with its neighbours to redress economic and social inequities in South Asia within the framework of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); it had helped to plan the SAARC Decade for the Girl Child, and was promoting a regional convention to combat the crime of trafficking in women and children for purposes of prostitution, which was likely to be adopted at the Eleventh SAARC Summit, to be held at Kathmandu in December 1999. SAARC also planned to draft a charter for regional social development, the first experts' drafting session to be held in Colombo. Maldives

had developed a national plan called "Vision 2020", which set forth its major goals and objectives for the first 20 years of the new millennium.

46. **Mr. Al-Shamsi** (United Arab Emirates) said that his delegation supported the statement on agenda item 109 made on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

47. National, regional and international efforts to find solutions to economic and social problems and to resolve conflicts must be increased if women were to be effectively involved in sustainable national development. At the same time, the special characteristics of each society, its cultural heritage and social and religious beliefs must be respected. His country supported the proposals to increase the involvement of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in field studies and the implementation of projects to foster development in poor countries and alleviate the effects of civil and regional wars and occupation.

48. He wished to express the gravest concern over what Palestinian and Arab women and their families were subjected to daily inside the occupied territories. The occupying Israeli forces carried out acts of violence and oppression, demolished houses, imposed curfews, expropriated land and made arbitrary arrests in violation of international law and the fourth Geneva Convention. The international community must demand that the Israeli Government comply with the provisions of international conventions and halt such aggressive practices.

49. His country attached the greatest importance to strengthening the role of its women and their involvement in all aspects of national development. A number of women's centres and groups had been established in the UAE and legislation had been enacted which guaranteed women their constitutional rights. His country's commitment had been demonstrated by the formation of national committees for follow-up to the Beijing Conference and the establishment of numerous literacy centres, nurseries, women's health centres, and women's training centres. He hoped that the special session of the General Assembly to be held in the year 2000 would help to achieve goals and aspirations relating to the advancement of women.

50. **Ms. Aghadjanian** (Armenia) said that Armenian legislation had long provided for equal rights of women and did not require revision. The main challenge was to overcome stereotypes. The national plan of action for improving the situation of women in Armenia recommended, *inter alia*, that progress in implementing the Beijing Platform for Action be assessed on an annual basis. Further objectives were to enhance women's participation in decision-making; to assist victims of violence; to develop

social networks for adolescent girls; to combat unemployment among women; and to improve working conditions for women.

51. Despite concerted efforts on the part of the Government, Armenian women did not occupy senior posts in decision-making and remained under-represented in politics, law enforcement and foreign policy. They tended to be employed in traditionally "female" professions, such as education, medicine and culture.

52. Although the promotion of women's rights was one of the main achievements of the United Nations, much remained to be done to improve the status of women within the Secretariat. Strategies to support gender equality should be translated into affirmative action, with due attention accorded to the representation of women from countries in transition and from developing countries. Also at the international level, the adoption by consensus of the Optional Protocol (to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women) would no doubt provide new impetus to the promotion of women's rights.

53. **Ms. Bouah-Kamon** (Côte d'Ivoire) said that her delegation wished to align itself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

54. The situation of rural women in the Côte d'Ivoire was a particular cause for concern, with female illiteracy approaching 80 per cent in rural areas, almost twice the corresponding urban rate. Moreover, rural women failed to enjoy the same standard of health services or living conditions. Despite their crucial contribution to the national economy and their overwhelming presence in agriculture, their income was only 22 per cent that of men. Her delegation accordingly supported the recommendations of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas (A/54/123-E/1999/66), particularly with regard to their participation in decision-making.

55. Her Government had adopted measures to raise public awareness of the Beijing Platform for Action and to encourage women in various sectors to voice their concerns and formulate recommendations. Not only had the budget of the Ministry dealing with the family and the advancement of women been increased by more than 70 per cent over the past four years, but additional institutional and legislative machinery had also been established to combat violence against women, including harmful traditional practices.

56. At subregional level, an Association of Women of West Africa (currently chaired by Côte d'Ivoire) which had

been established by countries of the Economic Community of West African States planned to initiate cultural, social, economic and political programmes for advancing the status of women. Its effectiveness would depend on the availability of resources.

57. At the international level, it was essential that the foreign debt problem be resolved. Had her Government not been forced to allocate 52 per cent of its budget to debt servicing, it would have been able to devote more resources to the advancement of women, an issue which ought to be a priority for all Governments.

58. **Mrs. Farhadi** (Afghanistan) stressed the continued pertinence of the report of the Assistant Secretary-General on the Advancement of Women on her visit to Afghanistan two years previously. The extreme seriousness of the situation of Afghan women had aroused international concern, as testified most recently by a resolution of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.1999/L.7) condemning, *inter alia*, the systematic violation by the Taliban of women's rights to health, education and employment, freedom of movement and protection from harassment and violence. For the past four years, the Taliban mercenaries had persistently prevented women from participating in political, economic, social and cultural life despite promises made verbally to United Nations officials, non-governmental organizations and journalists. Restrictions confining women to their homes had been tightened. In Kâboul, widows with children to feed were denied both welfare and the right to work. Women in the more recently occupied territories had now met the fate of those in Kandahâr, Hérât and Kâboul. In Mazâr-él-Sharif — occupied since August 1998 — the last University to accept girls had been closed, as had all girls' schools in the occupied north and in Bâmyân.

59. Only two months previously, the Taliban had attacked the northern provinces of Parwân and Kâpisâ and, according to United Nations sources, had forcibly displaced some 40,000 villagers to Kâboul. The men had been imprisoned, while the women had been crowded into dilapidated buildings. A further 75,000 had fled to the Taliban-occupied north where they continued to lack adequate accommodation, food and medicines. Her delegation urged the international community to come to their assistance before the winter snows exacerbated the situation.

60. **Mr. Al-Saidi** (Kuwait) said that his Government considered that women and men had an equal contribution to make to the building of society and its economic and social development. It therefore provided women with free education at all stages, and women now represented more than 50 per cent of all those attending educational

institutions. Women's access to health care was reflected in the lowered mortality rates, and women's non-governmental organizations were fully supported by the Kuwaiti Government. In May 1999, women had been accorded full political rights, currently represented 33.5 per cent of the workforce, and were employed in all sectors.

61. On the other hand, Kuwaiti women were still suffering social and psychological problems as a result of their experiences during the Iraqi occupation. Many had lost a male relative or had family members who were still being held in Iraqi prisons. Their anguish was only increased by Iraq's prolonged failure to release the Kuwaiti prisoners or to disclose information about them. The Iraqi Government had recently discontinued its participation in the Tripartite Commission on Missing Persons and Kuwait wished to note that of the 605 prisoners held in Iraq, 7 were Kuwaiti women, and neither the Kuwaiti Government nor the women's families had access to any information about them.

62. **Mrs. Amazan Cantave** (Haiti) expressed full endorsement of the statements made by Guyana and Saint Lucia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of the Caribbean Community respectively.

63. In her country women and men continued to live in different worlds in terms of access to education and employment, health, security and leisure. Haitian women, for example, were responsible for 90 per cent of market produce and 70 per cent were heads of households; yet not only were they less well remunerated than men, they were also discriminated against with respect to inheritance. Maternal mortality rates were high, with 1,000 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births. In education, high drop-out rates — linked, *inter alia*, to early pregnancies — were a cause for concern, as were gender stereotypes persisting in textbooks.

64. Although the country could boast a female president and prime minister, women's participation in government remained minimal. Although no national statistics existed, violence against women was another matter of concern. At the legislative level, women's civil status continued to be restricted; despite the ratification of international instruments, the offending provisions in the laws had not been amended. Moreover, the predominance of male judges at all levels of the judiciary perpetuated discriminatory systems and practices. In certain areas, penalties for men and women were different. With respect to adultery, for example, although a woman could divorce on the grounds of a husband's adultery, the husband was only considered to have committed adultery if he actually brought the mistress into the conjugal home.

65. To date, her Government had sought to implement its Beijing commitments by elaborating a national plan of action; conducting awareness-raising campaigns on the six themes identified as national priorities in the Platform for Action and on women in decision-making; establishing a national committee on girls' education which was responsible for countering stereotypes in the school system; and providing primary education scholarships for girls with single mothers. A range of legislative measures were also envisaged.

66. Laws might be enacted to protect women's rights, but laws could not easily change attitudes and behaviour. Her delegation agreed with the Interparliamentary Union that real democracy depended on national policies and legislation elaborated by men and women together, giving equitable attention to the specific needs of both halves of the population.

67. **Mr. Bakoniarivo** (Madagascar), expressing support, *inter alia*, for the statement made by Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that her Government welcomed the adoption of the Optional Protocol and would strive not only to press for its earliest ratification, but also to translate international commitments into action.

68. Madagascar's population (of 14 million) was for the most part rural; the majority lived well below the poverty line, women and girls being the worst affected. Despite efforts to revise legislation on land rights and on access to vocational training and education, to implement income-generating projects and community credit schemes and to build hospitals, the population continued to lack access to basic services, including health, water and education. Insufficient access to land, tools and credit had resulted in a chronic food shortage which had been further exacerbated by natural catastrophes.

69. The national plan of action for implementing Cairo and Beijing goals had as yet achieved only modest results. With the support of the United Nations system, however, a number of activities for improving the living conditions of women and girls were in progress. They included mechanisms for consulting target groups, support for women's organizations, capacity-building to integrate women in development and to promote gender equality. At the institutional level, organizations had been established to coordinate non-governmental efforts, to ensure cooperation between ministries on social and legal issues affecting women and to monitor the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

70. Considerable progress had been achieved in girls' education. Textbooks and curricula had been revised to

eliminate gender discrimination; teachers had been made more aware of the specific needs of female pupils and a programme to promote the employment and re-employment of women had been elaborated. Moreover, illiteracy among women had been reduced by 15 per cent and distances pupils must travel to school had been shortened. With a view to enhancing the future participation of the girl child in decision-making, efforts had been made to inform policy makers and the public of her rights. National health policy prioritized the mother and child and reproductive health, including family planning, adolescent health, malnutrition and HIV/AIDS.

71. Given the importance of the work of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) to developing countries, her delegation hoped that an urgent solution to its financial straits would be found. The international community must also provide support to enable countries to overcome factors impeding full implementation of Beijing goals; accordingly, the preparatory committee for the forthcoming special session of the General Assembly should address the related issues of resource mobilization, support for structural adjustment, improved market access for developing countries, exchange of technologies and know-how (the provision of grants for training), and development cooperation.

72. **Mr. Eboutou** (Cameroon) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Guyana on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

73. His delegation welcomed the adoption of the Optional Protocol, and the work of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council in 1999. It expressed appreciation for the work of UNIFEM, but hoped that UNIFEM would intensify its activities in Central Africa, Cameroon would be happy to receive a regional adviser from UNIFEM.

74. While his delegation fully supported the recommendations of the Commission on the Status of Women for accelerating the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action, it was difficult to implement strategies to assist the victims of discrimination and at the same time pursue integration efforts which assumed progressive change in the longer term, taking into account the process of economic globalization and structural adjustment policies.

75. Cameroon had established national mechanisms and carried out multisectoral programmes to promote the participation of women in development and to cope with the problems of rural women. It had achieved food self-sufficiency, largely as a result of the efforts of rural women.

They were being enrolled in programmes in the areas of education, health and vocational training.

76. **Mrs. Haile** (Eritrea) welcomed the adoption of the Optional Protocol and outlined government measures aimed at improving the status of Eritrean women. Legislative changes included the adoption of a macro-policy which addressed the root causes of inequality and poverty and prescribed changes in the social power structure. In the Civil Code, discriminatory clauses on marriage and the family had been revised. The right of women to own land was also guaranteed. Not only was the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (to which Eritrea was a party) incorporated into domestic law, it had also been fully reflected in the documents of the liberation struggle. Increasing numbers of Eritrean women were now using the legal system to defend their rights, but many remained unaware of the remedies available to them. The Government — in cooperation with the National Union of Eritrean Women — had therefore introduced awareness-raising mechanisms, *inter alia* through resource allocation and the promotion of greater collaboration between government and civil society.

77. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador), speaking on behalf of the Central American Group, said that the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was an event which strengthened existing international and hemispheric instruments for protecting the human rights of women and contributed to the efforts of the Central American countries to promote a culture of peace and equality for women. All States parties to the Convention should therefore sign, ratify or accede to the Optional Protocol.

78. The Central American countries remained committed to the principles and purposes of the Central American Alliance for Sustainable Development, including the principle that development must be people-centred and must take place within a framework of equity, solidarity, equality of opportunities, full participation in society and access by the entire population to essential social services.

79. In keeping with that commitment, the countries of the Central American Group had established the legal and institutional framework for social development based on the principles of mutual cooperation, solidarity and realization of the full potential of men and women in the region as well as on overcoming the structural factors that gave rise to poverty in the subregion. Those subregional mechanisms complemented national efforts to ensure effective follow-up to the commitments undertaken in the Beijing Declaration

and Platform for Action to improve the situation of women in the region.

80. The region's human development index revealed the marked inequalities from which women suffered in the fields of education, health, income and participation in the labour market. The situation of women had deteriorated further in the aftermath of the recent hurricanes, which had negatively affected the region's economic growth and thus its capacity to invest in basic social services.

81. The grave challenges ahead meant that the region's Governments, with the assistance of the international community, must redouble their efforts to overcome their vulnerabilities. Central America attached great importance to the development of regional mechanisms to help fulfil the commitments made at the Beijing Conference. Those mechanisms included the Central American preparatory meeting for the VIII Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, which had been held earlier that week in San Salvador to draw up Latin American and Caribbean proposals for presentation to the special session of the General Assembly in 2000 entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century".

82. Mr. Naber (Jordan) said that the Jordanian Council of Ministers had assigned to the Jordanian National Committee for Women the task of drawing up and prioritizing the national women's policy. That committee, which represented a true partnership among Government, non-governmental organizations and civil society, had mainstreamed a gender perspective into the programmes and policies of all 19 government sections, and had thereby integrated women into the Social and Economic Development Plan 1999-2003. It had developed an action plan for each policy area, including *inter alia*, health, education, vocational training, and decision-making.

83. In the view of Jordan, providing education for women was the crucial factor in improving health, nutrition, and family education, and in empowering women to participate in decision-making. Jordan's commitment to education for women was therefore unwavering, despite its economic burdens. Access to schools was now almost universal, with enrolment rates slightly higher for girls than for boys, and female illiteracy had plunged from nearly 50 per cent in 1979 to 18 per cent in 1997. At the university level, there were 94 female students to 100 male students. Improvements had also been noted in the health sector, including better maternal health, a lower infant mortality rate and greater access to health centres and family planning services.

84. His Government believed that the international community must work together to stimulate awareness of the obstacles to education; Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, members of the civil society, businesses and financial institutions should seek to achieve a consensus with a view to designing a holistic approach to development.

85. In accordance with its obligations under CEDAW, Jordan was reviewing and revising existing legislation, with attention to discriminatory provisions contained in the Constitution. The Labour Law, the Civil Service Law and the passport and civil status regulations had been amended. A draft law dealing with "honour crimes" had recently been submitted to Parliament. In that regard, the Government condemned all forms of violence against women, including that perpetrated against them during armed conflicts, and urged the international community to uphold and bolster international human rights legislation as well as humanitarian relief for victims of mass violence. In that connection, it should be noted that Jordan had been the first Middle Eastern country to sign the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

86. The barriers that continued to impede the empowerment and full participation of Jordanian women were more attitudinal than legislative. Workshops, seminars and training programmes in women's political and legal rights had therefore been provided to government officials and to women from all strata of society. It was clear that assistance from abroad and political will would not suffice: in order to achieve the advancement of women in the complex modern world, a genuinely collective effort was required.

87. Ms. Bihotori (Burundi) said that the national plan of action had identified three objectives: (1) to re-instil in women values that were conducive to the emergence of a culture of peace; (2) to increase the participation of women in the peace process currently under way in Burundi; and (3) to restore the moral and human dignity of women victims of civil strife. To that end, a cultural festival on the theme of "A culture of peace" had been organized in January 1998 and women had been accepted as members of the National *Bashingantake* Council in order to promote national unity and reconciliation.

88. In the field of health, the objectives were to reduce the rates of malnutrition and anaemia; to increase from 19 per cent to 24 per cent the proportion of women who had three prenatal consultations during their pregnancy; to increase the percentage of women who benefited from qualified assistance during childbirth from 12 per cent to 17 per cent

by the year 2000; to increase the rate of contraceptive use from 3.5 per cent to 7 per cent by the year 2000; to reduce the rate of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases among women by 5 per cent by the year 2000; and to provide assistance to adolescents and women who were victims of violence.

89. Despite the economic crisis which confronted Burundi, the Government had been seeking to improve the economic situation of women by promoting income-generating activities, organizing women into associations and granting small loans to the latter. The percentage of girls attending secondary school had also increased following the establishment of community colleges.

90. Although the right to education, work and remuneration and the right to vote were guaranteed to both men and women on an equal footing, the situation of women in Burundi still gave cause for concern. It was therefore proposed to continue efforts to improve their legal status and to mobilize resources to fund programmes specifically for their benefit. In that regard, her delegation appealed to the international community to resume its bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

91. **Ms. David** (Philippines) said that the Philippines sought through national development plans to attain the vision of a gender-responsive society. The Government's Social Reform Council, for example, which was the highest policy-making body implementing the national anti-poverty programme, specifically targeted women. As part of the national plan of action, some 70 government agencies had developed gender and development plans covering such activities as gender sensitivity training, the mainstreaming of gender concerns into poverty-alleviation legislation, legislation against trafficking in women, and the empowerment of women.

92. In the area of education, women enjoyed near equal status with men, thanks to such government efforts as the introduction of a non-formal education system and literacy programmes for indigenous women and girls. At both the bilateral and regional levels, the Philippines took the lead in addressing the concerns of women.

93. She welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to dedicate at least one of its high-level segments before the year 2000 to the advancement of women and that of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to focus on the issue of trafficking in women. The Philippines was particularly interested in the indicators concerning women which were being developed by the Statistics Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and in the comparative analysis by the

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) of case studies on violence against women and trafficking in women. More effective coordination of United Nations activities pertaining to women would help to identify trends and provide a basis for recommendations for future action.

94. The Philippines was particularly concerned by the issue of violence against women, especially migrant women workers. The majority of the one billion people living in abject poverty were women, who tended to migrate in search of a better life. Every effort should therefore be made to ensure that such workers were provided with adequate protection and not subjected to abuse, exploitation and violation of their rights. That goal could be achieved, however, only through international cooperation and universal implementation of the international instruments that promoted and protected the rights of migrant workers. It was regrettable that, to date, only 12 countries had signed the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. Member States which had not yet done so should sign, ratify or accede to the Convention so that it could enter into force before the new millennium.

95. She noted with satisfaction the increased national efforts to eliminate traditional practices that were harmful to women. Education and advocacy were important tools for bringing about attitudinal changes in that area. Her delegation also welcomed the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which augured well for the goal of advancing women's rights in the new millennium.

96. **Ms. Gonzalez** (Chairperson of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) expressed satisfaction at the references which members of the Committee had made to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, which was one of several international Conventions whose aim was the protection of women's rights. The experts on the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women would take account of the recommendations and suggestions that had been made as they continued to work towards the effective implementation of the Convention and the eradication of all forms of discrimination based on sex.

Agenda item 106: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family
(continued) (A/C.3/54/L.2)

97. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to take action on the draft resolution entitled "Policies and programmes involving youth", contained in document A/C.3/54/L.2, which had been recommended by the Economic and Social Council for adoption. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

98. **Ms. Newell** (Secretary of the Committee) recalled that the representative of Portugal had orally amended the draft resolution by inserting a new paragraph after paragraph 15, the text of which read as follows:

"Reiterates the call made in the Programme of Action to Member States to consider including youth representatives in their delegations to the General Assembly and other relevant United Nations meetings, thus broadening the channels of communication and enhancing the discussion of youth-related issues and requests the Secretary-General to convey again this invitation to Member States."

99. **Mr. Ndiaye** (Senegal) said, with reference to the hosting in Senegal of the fourth session of the World Youth Forum of the United Nations system, that his Government had been approached by a number of youth organizations requesting that the convening of the fourth session be deferred until the year 2001 in order to allow more time for the implementation of the outcome of the third session and for mobilization and preparations for the fourth session. His Government had acceded to those requests and therefore wished to propose that the year 2000 in draft paragraph 10 should be replaced by 2001.

100. **Mr. Mofokeng** (South Africa), joined by **Ms. Paiva** (Portugal) and **Mr. Bhattacharjee** (India), supported the amendment just proposed by the representative of Senegal and hoped that the preparatory process would benefit from the additional time and that every effort would be made to strengthen the participation of representatives from the developing countries.

101. *Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.2, as orally amended, was adopted without a vote.*

102. **Ms. Wagner** (United States of America) said that her delegation had joined in the consensus on the draft resolution just adopted on the understanding that the funding for the proposed second World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth should be from outside the

Organization's regular budget and that the actual decision to hold such a Conference would be taken at a later date.

103. **Mr. Bilman** (Turkey), supported by **Mr. Mofokeng** (South Africa), recalled that his Government had offered to host the second World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth. He therefore deeply regretted the statement just made by the representative of the United States of America.

The meeting rose at 6.40 p.m.



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Chairman: Mr. Galuška (Czech Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/54/3, A/54/69-E/1999/8 and Add.1, A/54/289, A/54/340; A/C.3/54/2; A/C.3/54/L.3-6)

Agenda item 108: International drug control (A/54/3, A/54/186, A/54/293-E/1999/119, A/54/314-S/1999/942; A/C.3/54/L.7)

1. **Mr. Ariacchi** (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention), reporting on international drug control, said that the optimism inspired by the determined attitude of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had been sustained by the action taken.

2. The Office had a fourfold strategy, the first component being focused on information, advocacy and policy support, as the main thrust of the struggle against illicit drug production, trafficking and abuse. Throughout the world, experts from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) were working with Governments to improve understanding of the global nature of the issue and were helping Member States to strengthen their policies in drug demand reduction, law enforcement and alternative development. The forthcoming publication of the second *World Drug Report* demonstrated the will of UNDCP to present the best available information.

3. The second component of the strategy related to the elimination of illicit crops, an objective that Member States had agreed to attain by the year 2008. To that end, UNDCP was offering to interested countries various projects relating to the control of illicit cultivation on the one hand and alternative activities on the other. The new technologies, especially satellites and the Internet, combined with the progress in research, had revolutionized international drug control methods and, with the help of UNDCP, many countries would soon themselves be in a position to estimate the extent of illicit crop cultivation in their territory.

4. Twenty-five years of experience had shown that alternative development was the best way to break the economic dependence of farmers on illicit crops and to improve the living conditions of whole communities, create markets and diversify economies. He had witnessed that process in Northern Thailand and in Pakistan, Turkey and Viet Nam, where illicit crop cultivation had almost entirely disappeared. One UNDCP priority was to achieve similar results in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the third largest opium-producer. An agreement to that effect had been signed in May 1999 with the Lao Government, and

UNDCP was seeking the resources necessary to finance alternative development. The fact that solutions were at hand did not excuse the international community from making all possible efforts to break the economic cycle on which illicit cultivation was based.

5. It was most difficult to eliminate opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan and Myanmar, where UNDCP had not yet succeeded in fully implementing its strategy. Particularly favourable weather conditions and an increase in the area under cultivation had resulted in a harvest of 4,600 tons of opium in 1999, 70 per cent more than in 1998. Afghanistan was currently producing 75 per cent of the world's opium. However unacceptable those figures were, the political situation and the insecurity in the country made effective intervention impossible. There was no room for fatalism, however; efforts must be made to contain the drug production problem in Afghanistan. In that connection, he welcomed the success of activities carried out in Tajikistan, in particular, to increase the capacity for drug detection and eradication. The seven countries bordering Afghanistan would serve as a security belt to prevent the spread of opium cultivation and heroin production to neighbouring countries. He urged the international community to adopt a political position focusing on the serious nature of the drug problem in Afghanistan.

6. With regard to cocaine production, the Andean countries had developed business plans based on alternative development as a means to end economic dependence on cocaine as well as production of that drug. In the current year Bolivia would destroy 14,000 hectares under illicit cocaine cultivation and thus, on the threshold of the new millennium, would have only one sixth of the area under cultivation that it had had 10 years earlier, while in Peru, cocaine cultivation had decreased to 51,000 hectares in 1998 from 129,000 hectares in 1992. He was convinced that Bolivia could have achieved similar results were it not for the present situation, especially as the President and his Government were determined to settle the civil conflict peacefully and had given priority to eliminating cocaine and opium from the country. The support of the international community for alternative development was more important than ever: putting an end to economic dependence on drugs was the best way to ensure that replanting would not take place.

7. The third component of the Office's strategy was the elimination of illicit drug trafficking. UNDCP was building bridges between drug law enforcement institutions to encourage more effective cross-border cooperation, and its programmes were designed to help Member States to apply internationally recognized standards in drug-testing

laboratories. Each State would of course have to ensure that the law was enforced, but the Office would supply reliable information on the availability of illicit drugs to national criminal justice systems and health-care authorities. The programme set up in Tajikistan was an excellent example of the way in which the Office had made its expertise available to help set up agencies for the elimination of drug trafficking.

8. The fourth component of the strategy was focused on reducing the demand for drugs. The nature, scale and extent of the problem should first be made clear; the Office had launched a global monitoring programme which would include an inventory of the very best practices. The emphasis was on helping Member States to identify their own situations and then to have more accurate statistics available for more practical responses.

9. In concluding the issue of international drug control, he emphasized that, contrary to popular belief, the highest rates of drug consumption had been recorded in the developing countries, while some developed countries were producing a large proportion of the narcotics.

10. He expressed his gratitude to Member States for their financial support, an increase of 30 per cent being expected in contributions, but he regretted that 82 per cent of the funds had been earmarked for UNDCP activities, which was a disservice to the Office. He also recalled that the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances had recommended that a portion of the assets forfeited as a result of convictions in drug-related criminal cases should be turned over to the United Nations. He urged all Member States to follow the example of Luxembourg, the only country which used drug money to finance activities aimed at improving the situation internationally.

11. Turning to agenda item 107, the Executive Director said that 2000 would be a decisive year for the Centre for International Crime Prevention if the convention against transnational organized crime was adopted as planned. That convention had two main objectives: on the one hand, to strengthen international cooperation by offering a common framework to different legal systems and, on the other hand, to set the standards that domestic legislation must meet in order to combat organized crime effectively. Three protocols were also being drafted, dealing with the manufacture of and trafficking in firearms, the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons, particularly women and children. Over 125 Member States were taking part in the negotiations.

12. Transnational organized criminal groups had proliferated in the past decade, taking advantage of weakening State controls, the dismantling of barriers to trade and the disappearance of borders, and were exploiting the opportunities provided by the globalization of the economy. In addition, such groups were very violent; for example, according to figures provided by the Russian Department for Prevention of Organized Crime, in the preceding seven years, there had been a 750 per cent increase in criminal offences and there had been more than 200 contract murders in 1998. There was no longer any debate at the international level about whether organized crime posed a threat to economic growth and political stability. The international community had recognized that global crime constituted one of the gravest threats to prosperity in the next century.

13. No country could cope successfully on its own with the growth of international crime. The combination of corruption, organized crime and money laundering ("crony" capitalism) could destabilize entire political, economic and social systems. A convention against organized transnational crime would extend to all countries the benefits of measures such as confiscation of criminal assets, witness protection programmes and enhanced judicial cooperation. It was also time to abolish bank secrecy where it hindered criminal investigations and to consider taking strong action against those who abused offshore financial centres to launder their money. He hoped that the tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in Vienna in spring 2000, would devote special attention to the development of measures which would look beyond the provisions contained in that convention and its protocols, that the participating Governments would commit to action supported by targets and timetables, and that the convention would provide for a proper mechanism for its implementation, in particular to provide developing countries with the means to put effectively into practice the most important provisions.

14. The Centre for International Crime Prevention had defined some priority areas to which the United Nations could make a useful contribution, in particular the three global programmes designed to support the Convention.

15. The first programme was aimed at combating corruption, which a recent World Bank study had shown to hurt public welfare and the activities of the private sector, and which could be deeply institutionalized. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) had shown that investment levels in countries affected by corruption were 5 per cent lower than in other countries. The global programme against corruption must assist countries in developing countermeasures and training policy makers,

judges, prosecutors and financial sector experts. In order to avoid duplication of effort, the Centre had coordinated its activities with the World Bank and Transparency International, amongst others. The Global Forum on Fighting Corruption, convened by the Vice-President of the United States of America, had gathered together high-level delegations from more than 60 nations who had pledged to step up counter-corruption measures. He himself had just returned from South Africa, where the International Anti-Corruption Conference had been held, and he stressed to the Committee that very few items on the international agenda were considered as important as the fight against corruption.

16. The second programme was devoted to the trafficking of human beings. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM), every year 4 million illegal migrants were victims of such practices, providing from \$5-7 billion in ill-gotten gains for traffickers. Unfortunately those figures represented only a small part of the problem, especially if one took into account women and children who were sexually or economically exploited. Organized criminal groups were no strangers to such trafficking and the global programme against trafficking in human beings was promoting the creation of "coalitions" among law enforcement agencies, immigration authorities, victim assistance groups, and human rights organizations with a view to bringing the strongest possible combined force to bear on the problem.

17. Within the framework of the third programme, which concentrated on the threat posed by organized crime, the Centre was assessing organized criminal groups worldwide in order to obtain reliable information, detect trends and perform analyses of the situation. Its findings would be the foundation for a world report on organized crime which would allow Member States to make more informed policy decisions.

18. Under the umbrella of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, the Centre had already begun to implement programmes at the national level, particularly in South Africa where Mr. Mbeki and Mr. Mandela had promised him their full support. With the adoption of the convention the Centre's work would grow considerably and it must make every effort to remain one step ahead and assist countries in putting words into action.

19. He recalled that the reorganization of the Centre had been completed in 1998. Governments had supported the reforms undertaken and the Centre's operational budget had increased tenfold, going from \$274,000 in 1996 to more than

\$3 million in 1999, which, when added to new pledges, should boost technical cooperation activities.

20. Recalling also that the Vienna International Centre had recently celebrated its twentieth anniversary, he concluded by stressing that the drug control and crime prevention programmes were the backbone of the United Nations Secretariat's presence in Vienna.

21. **Mr. Bhatti** (Pakistan) expressed his delegation's concern at the figures quoted by the Executive Director and added that illegal drug trafficking represented 8 per cent of world trade and money-laundering 2 to 5 per cent of world GNP, while the revenues from organized crime represented \$1.8 billion. He unreservedly endorsed the Executive Director's opinion that the most effective instrument currently was alternative development.

22. Pakistan was a transit country in a region much affected by drug trafficking and he wondered what actions the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) was taking in its territory, in particular in the area of alternative development, since the growing of opium poppies had increased by 70 per cent in the south of Afghanistan in spite of the destruction of some crops. He wondered whether the Executive Director was aware of any negotiations with the Afghan Government, which seemed to be willing to combat drug trafficking. He also enquired about UNDCP activities to combat money-laundering, which he stressed was an international problem requiring a very firm and very effective strategy.

23. **Mr. Valdivieso** (Colombia), referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and on resolution 53/115 of the General Assembly (A/54/186), said that it would be useful to briefly describe the salient points of the agreement concluded in April 1999 between UNDCP and the European Space Agency (ESA).

24. **Mr. Fadaifard** (Islamic Republic of Iran) guaranteed the Executive Director his country's unconditional support and cooperation in the fight against illegal drug trafficking, support motivated by the fact that geography had placed Iran between the principal drug producers to the east and the principal drug markets to the west. Recalling the statistics quoted by the Executive Director and referring to the increase in opium production in Afghanistan, he enquired what further measures would be taken and wondered whether UNDCP intended to revise or even toughen its policy towards Afghanistan.

25. **Mr. Ariacchi** (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention), replying to two questions relating to Afghanistan, said that the situation regarding illicit crops had deteriorated, as his Office had predicted two years earlier, owing to insufficient efforts by the international community. The Office had, nonetheless, persuaded the Taliban to issue a formal prohibition of poppy cultivation throughout the territory and the Afghan Government was ready to undertake a project in the north of the country. Only limited action could be taken because of the general political situation and the scant resources available. The three provinces in Afghanistan where production had not risen substantially were precisely those where his Office had launched substitute activities requiring low start-up investment and involving local communities, providing them with minimum infrastructure to guarantee the long-term viability of the operation.

26. A second, parallel strategy ought to be set up, involving a security ring round Afghanistan with strengthened border controls. His Office had sent several high-level missions to Iran over the past two years to gain a better understanding of its border control policy and it seemed that the international community had come fully to understand that country's actions designed to stop the flow of heroin and opium from Afghanistan.

27. As a result of Iran's policy, the flow of illicit drugs had moved to the border with the Central Asian republics, in particular Tajikistan. In response to that situation, his Office had set up a drug control body, which would be operational in a few months, and had reached an agreement with the Russian troops stationed along the border on providing technical assistance to improve their interception of drugs from Afghanistan. His Office intended to hold a ministerial meeting in Vienna or New York at the end of November, to be attended by the 21 countries concerned by the situation in Afghanistan, which would analyse trends and discuss new, more effective strategies.

28. His Office was working on substitute crop production in Pakistan also.

29. With regard to money-laundering, he said that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme was setting up financial analysis services and legislation to deal with money-laundering. It was conducting negotiations in Vienna with a large number of countries to consider what measures should be taken, particularly at the level of regulation, in order to keep part of their economies healthy and to protect them against the activities of criminals engaged in money-laundering; it would shortly be setting up

a special international initiative on the issue of extraterritorial banking activity. Lastly, the Programme was attempting to gain a better understanding of the workings of money-laundering, which were becoming ever more complex. To that end it was working closely with the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

30. As for the agreement with the European Space Agency, he noted that at its latest session the Commission on Narcotic Drugs had requested his Office to set up a surveillance capacity, using the most advanced techniques, for crops intended for the manufacture of drugs. That required a combination of satellites, aerial photography and investigation on the ground. His Office intended to approach the European Commission for the necessary funding. It was also open to agreements with other space agencies.

31. **Ms. Mesdoua** (Algeria) asked whether it was not time for the international community to consider an international instrument dealing specifically with corruption.

32. **Mr. de Alba** (Mexico) asked for further details on possible activities in the context of the future action plan to implement the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. He also asked the Executive Director to comment on the use made of the reports submitted by States and on the exercise to rationalize the reporting procedure, to check the reliability of sources of information and, more generally, to undertake a balanced and reliable analysis enabling the international community to measure progress that had been made and see whether it was in a position to meet the targets for the years 2003 and 2008.

33. With regard to the prevention of crime and treatment of offenders, his delegation noted with satisfaction that the Centre for International Crime Prevention had taken measures to adapt its programmes in that area during discussions on trafficking of migrants. Migrants were victims and should on no account be considered as offenders. As for combating corruption, and the possibility of drawing up a comprehensive instrument on the issue, he stressed that such an instrument would be too limited if it was concerned solely with bribery.

34. Lastly, his delegation wished to know whether progress had been made or was expected with regard to the illicit manufacture of and trade in firearms. It understood that the phase of negotiations concluded that day in Vienna had resulted in substantial progress. It was perhaps time for the Secretariat to support such efforts, particularly since there was talk of the Centre playing a coordinating role in matters such as establishing databases, which meant that sooner or later the question of resources would arise.

35. **Mr. Augustus** (Rwanda) asked whether the Office's mandate also extended to crimes against humanity, such as genocide, because assistance for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda would be most desirable.

36. **Mr. Arlacchi** (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) said that three countries — Hungary, Lebanon and Romania — had already signed a cooperation agreement with his Office, under which they would work with the Office to find the best means of combating corruption in their countries and at the international level. An agreement with South Africa was also on the point of being signed. His view was that, before thinking about a convention against corruption, it would be sensible to agree on a final text for the convention against transnational organized crime by the end of 2000. At the regional level, there were some encouraging examples of instruments relating to corruption; the international community thus had a good basis for devising an excellent convention, along the lines of the future convention against transnational organized crime.

37. In reply to the question from the representative of Mexico regarding activities since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, he said that his Office had recently embarked on a worldwide drug abuse assessment programme, in the belief that to achieve effective drug demand reduction it was necessary first to establish the full extent of the problem. Since very few countries currently had the necessary equipment and many did not even have a specialized evaluation unit, it was a matter of priority to set up essential structures to enable the countries of the world to have their own systems for evaluating drug demand. At the financial level, greater support would be required. He therefore intended to raise the matter at the next meeting of donors.

38. Another measure taken by the Office following the special session of the General Assembly had been to extend its prevention, treatment and reintegration programme. After an exhaustive analysis of the Office's operations in areas where there was a high demand for narcotics, particularly Pakistan and South Africa, assistance to those countries had been increased. There was a particular need to set aside more resources for the construction of treatment and prevention centres. It was also important to continue mobilizing youth, an approach which had yielded good results. Finally, the Office was in the process of opening a special section on its Internet site for drug addicts and educators, and providing information about special programmes for children.

39. With regard to the traffic in small arms, which was the subject of one of the protocols to the convention against transnational organized crime, it was envisaged that the Centre for International Crime Prevention would centralize data on that traffic in cooperation with other organs and bodies of the United Nations, such as the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

40. Responding to the question posed by the representative of Rwanda, the Executive Director said that the Centre was not competent to deal with such questions, nor did it have the material means to do so; however, that did not rule out the possibility that in future a link could be established between crimes against humanity and the activities of the Centre.

41. **Mr. Diao Mingsheng** (China) requested more information on the progress made at the latest series of negotiations on a convention against transnational organized crime and its protocols.

42. **Mr. Nour** (Egypt), speaking with reference to the imbalance between earmarked contributions and general contributions to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund, requested clarification on that topic and on the specific destinations of contributions. He also wished to know to what degree the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the Centre for International Crime Prevention could increase their cooperation.

43. **Mr. Arlacchi** (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention) said that substantial progress had been made during the session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, particularly with regard to the provisions of the convention concerning extradition and mutual assistance. The Ad Hoc Committee had also considered the question of money-laundering, and the commitment manifested in favour of guidelines on international measures in that regard had been encouraging. That consensus could be broadened during the second reading of the text, to occur before the end of 1999.

44. Reverting to the question of the financing of the convention's implementation, which had been only partially addressed by the Ad Hoc Committee, he expressed the hope that the convention would provide for a mechanism to allow developing countries to finance its implementation. Serious consideration had already been given to creating a United Nations fund, consisting of a percentage of the assets confiscated from criminal organizations, that would assist

signatory developing countries in implementing the convention.

45. With regard to the large number of earmarked contributions, he said that the Office was attempting to reverse that trend, although without much success to date. Nevertheless, the interest shown by Member States in the three programmes on corruption, traffic in human beings and organized crime was encouraging. The expansion of the donor base would allow the Centre to intensify its cooperation with the institutions concerned with crime prevention associated with the United Nations, as well as with other such institutions throughout the world. It should be noted, for example, that the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) was cooperating with the Centre on making preparations for the tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

46. **Mr. Kääriäinen** (Finland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the countries associated with the European Union and the European Free Trade Association members Iceland and Norway, said that a number of measures had been taken to implement the decisions taken at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

47. For its part, the European Union attached great importance to the action plan on demand reduction, which was soon to be adopted by the General Assembly.

48. The European Union also stressed the importance of the work undertaken to streamline the submission of national reports by Member States to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP). The United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs had requested an inter-sessional working group to formulate guidelines to that end, thanks to which the Commission should be better able to monitor and guide the implementation of the goals set during the special session. The political commitment of Member States was crucial in making the work of the Commission and UNDCP more effective.

49. Member States had been supportive of the strengthening of the capacity of UNDCP by providing it with adequate funding (through both the regular United Nations budget and voluntary contributions), by streamlining the functioning of the Commission and through enhanced inter-agency cooperation. The European Union intended to continue its support for the Programme and urged all Governments to do likewise, morally and financially, so as to allow UNDCP to fulfil its expanded mandate following the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Other international, regional and national organizations, including non-governmental organizations, could contribute their

experiences and valuable partnership. It was therefore particularly welcome that UNDCP had become associated with the United Nations Joint and Committee-sponsored Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), as the problems of drugs and HIV/AIDS were obviously connected. The European Union also repeated its call for all States to ratify and to implement their obligations under the three United Nations conventions relating to drugs.

50. With the entry into force of the Amsterdam Treaty, the European Union had set for itself the goal of ensuring the protection of its citizens within an area of freedom, security and justice. Action against illicit drugs was inseparable from that concept. The European Union drugs strategy for the years 2000-2004 would emphasize shared responsibility and a global, balanced and comprehensive approach to the drug problem. In the area of information, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction provided citizens, politicians and professionals with the data they needed in order to deal with drug-related problems. Besides the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, with which the Centre was intensifying its cooperation, the European Union was also cooperating with Latin American, Caribbean and African countries within the frameworks of a number of Action Plans and intended to intensify its cooperation with Central Asia as well. Moreover, the first common strategy of the European Union, a strategy on Russia adopted in June 1999, included a substantial segment on cooperation in the field of drugs and crime prevention.

51. The European Union had made a priority of crime prevention, and particularly of action to combat organized crime. It was currently debating a strategy that would emphasize, for example, the need for enhanced cooperation among police and judicial authorities, aim at strengthening the work of the European Police Office and stress the importance of tracing, freezing, seizing and confiscating the proceeds of crime. The member States of the European Union had actively participated in the drafting of a convention against transnational organized crime. The European Union hoped that work on the convention and the three additional legal instruments would be concluded in the year 2000 and that, once adopted, the convention and protocols would be speedily ratified and implemented.

52. With regard to the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, the European Union appreciated efforts to give priority to the adoption of the proposed convention and its protocols, but also emphasized the need to maintain a balance between organized crime issues and other more general issues. In that context, it welcomed the discussions during the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on

such issues as effective crime prevention, domestic violence, corruption, victim assistance, prison conditions and juvenile justice.

53. The European Union encouraged the efforts to strengthen the organizational capacity of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention and noted with interest its initiative against trafficking in human beings, corruption and transnational organized crime.

54. The European Union was looking forward to the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, due to be held in April 2000. In particular, it welcomed the preliminary draft of a single Vienna declaration on crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century. The European Union encouraged an exchange of information on issues of common concern between the Tenth Congress and the special sessions on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and the World Summit for Social Development.

55. Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms should constitute a basic underlying principle of policies in connection with drugs and crime. The root causes of those problems should be attacked by reducing poverty and social exclusion, as well as the opportunity and motivation for crime. The strategies directed against the world drug problem should benefit both men and women equally and trade policy measures should be used to encourage the development of substitution crops.

56. International cooperation already existed in the field of tackling drugs and illicit crime and was being enhanced all the time. Nevertheless, the European Union believed that such cooperation should be intensified within the framework of the United Nations, as it was only through concerted action that sustainable long-term solutions in that field would be achieved.

57. **Mr. de Alba** (Mexico), speaking on agenda item 108 on behalf of the States members of the Rio Group, said that the Veracruz Act, adopted by the ministers for foreign affairs of the Group in March 1999, reaffirmed the need for cooperation at all levels in accordance with the principle of shared responsibilities in the fight against drugs. In the context of the commitments which it had undertaken at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the international community should take action to support the development of alternative activities in those areas where drugs were illicitly cultivated, while also respecting the legislation of each country and the relevant international conventions.

58. The Group welcomed the unanimous approval given by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to the proposed Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which had been the first concrete result of the special session of the General Assembly. The Plan stipulated the commitments and measures to be undertaken by States and by international and regional organizations with a view to achieving a substantial reduction in the demand for drugs by the year 2008, particularly among the most vulnerable groups. It also defined measures for prevention, treatment and rehabilitation and recommended the launching of information campaigns. As such, the Plan demonstrated the interest of the United Nations in public health policies and programmes, which were vital components of a global approach to the drugs problem.

59. The Rio Group also noted with satisfaction the considerable progress achieved in elaborating guidelines on the presentation of national reports and on the design of mechanisms for evaluating aspects of international cooperation to combat drugs and the difficulties facing such cooperation.

60. In that context, the Rio Group was pleased to announce the conclusion of the negotiations on the multilateral evaluation mechanism of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission, which was based on respect for the sovereignty and internal legal order of States and on shared responsibilities. Characterized by transparency, equality and objectivity, it excluded all forms of sanction and aimed to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of action. In the near future, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs might take its cue from the tangible progress which would result from the implementation of that mechanism.

61. Speaking on behalf of his own delegation, he suggested that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should carry through to a successful conclusion the elaboration of guidelines that would permit an objective evaluation of the progress which countries had achieved in pursuing the objectives set for 2003 and 2008.

62. His country reaffirmed its willingness to combat drugs on all fronts. Since the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, it had actively participated in international and regional forums devoted to the problem. At the national level, the National Security Council had implemented a new strategy for combating drug trafficking which had produced excellent results. That strategy focused on enhanced coordination between institutions and the formulation of a national plan to combat the production of

narcotic drugs, as well as the use of advanced technology, increased investments of between \$400 and \$500 million in the three years to come, prevention campaigns and public awareness campaigns.

63. Concerning crime prevention and criminal justice, he welcomed the progress achieved in the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime and of its protocols, which were under negotiation. His country had helped to draft those instruments, which were particularly concerned with cooperation to combat money-laundering and corruption, illicit firearm manufacture and traffic, smuggling of migrants and traffic in human beings, particularly women and children. More specifically, Mexico had submitted a draft protocol on money-laundering and had begun considering the problem of corruption.

64. In his view, Member States should join in examining the content and orientation of world programmes against traffic in human beings, corruption and transnational crime, under the auspices of the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention. It was also essential to ensure better coordination between the different authorities concerned with such problems with a view to avoiding any risk of duplication.

65. **Mr. Dlamini** (Swaziland), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), said that international cooperation to combat drug trafficking and transnational organized crime continued to be important and should therefore be strengthened.

66. SADC welcomed the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The preliminary draft of the Vienna declaration on crime and justice served as a good basis for further negotiation at the Tenth Congress, as it took into account the results of the regional preparatory meetings and the goals of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

67. In view of the importance of the Congress, SADC hoped that countries would be represented at a high political level with a view to raising awareness among political leaders and increasing the political will to combat organized crime. In addition, it was encouraged to note that one of the four workshops to be held within the framework of the Tenth Congress would be devoted to the topic of women in the criminal justice system.

68. The Community welcomed the significant progress made in the elaboration of an international convention against transnational organized crime and of protocols on trafficking in women and children, in migrants and in

firearms. It hoped that those instruments would be adopted at the proposed conference of plenipotentiaries in 2000. It also hoped that all developing countries which so requested could obtain the financial assistance necessary to participate in the conference.

69. It was encouraging that, despite its limited budget, the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had been effective and had been able to implement a number of projects, such as a study on the impact of crime on development in southern African countries. In view of the Institute's importance for Africa, the Community encouraged its continued cooperation with the Centre for International Crime Prevention, the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and international and regional agencies.

70. Southern Africa, like all other parts of the world, was not spared the harmful effects of the illicit drug scourge and the Community had devised ways to meet the challenge. It had thus established its Drug Control Committee and Drug Control Database, which would facilitate the implementation of the Community's Regional Drug Control Programme. The Community hoped that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme, which had launched a new initiative to assist Governments, would work with it in strengthening its Epidemiological Network.

71. The Community had recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention which should facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development. It was also grateful to the European Union for its support.

72. **Ms. Christine Lee** (Singapore), speaking on agenda item 107, expressed her delegation's special appreciation for the work of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on the issue of transnational organized crime because Singapore, as a small island State, was unfortunately a hub for criminal activities and a transit point for the international trade in drugs. In its struggle to protect its society from such pernicious influences, the country had maintained the provision for capital punishment in its laws, in the conviction that the rights of every individual must be balanced against those of the community as a whole. Appropriate judicial safeguards for the accused did not mean that the rights of the victims of crimes, who were entitled to just and effective remedies, or of the community as a whole, should be forgotten.

73. Her delegation, which respected the position of countries that had abolished the death penalty, believed that those countries should equally respect the position of her

country and of other States which had decided that the death penalty was a necessary component of their criminal justice systems. She therefore had, with regret, to deplore the position of the European Union, which was attempting to impose on other States its views on criminal justice. The only international instrument that imposed an obligation on States to abolish the death penalty was the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which only 38 States had ratified since its entry into force in July 1991. The obligations of those 38 could not be imposed on States not parties to the Protocol. The European Union resolution on the question of the death penalty was thus an attempt to force States not parties to the second Protocol to comply with its terms, thereby denying such States their sovereign right of choice, in violation of Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations.

74. **Mr. Kiriella** (Sri Lanka), speaking on agenda item 107, welcomed the two resolutions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in May 1999, one on a possible convention against transnational organized crime and the three draft protocols thereto and the other on the possible elaboration of an international instrument relating to the illicit manufacture of and traffic in firearms. His delegation wholeheartedly supported the elaboration of such a convention.

75. Mention should also be made of Council resolution 1999/28 on the administration of juvenile justice, which stressed the need both to give assistance to children and young people in order to prevent them from resorting to crime and, rather than imprisoning young offenders, actively to promote their re-education, rehabilitation and reintegration. Drug abuse and involvement in crime by juveniles were symptomatic of a malaise afflicting modern society, every member of which should give honest thought to the issue.

76. With regard to agenda item 108, the delegation of Sri Lanka, which had been adversely affected by terrorism and illegal arms trafficking, fully endorsed the concerns expressed in the Political Declaration of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly in June 1998 about the links between illicit drug production and trafficking and the involvement of terrorist groups.

77. Sri Lanka was not a drug-producing country nor a major consumer, but, given its proximity to the "Golden Crescent" and the "Golden Triangle", it feared the adverse effects of drug-related problems, which had affected the country particularly over the past two decades. The President had therefore appointed, in August 1997, a Special Committee to develop a national policy and programme on

alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs. Its recommendations were consistent with those of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. Several bills were currently before Parliament.

78. Despite the internal conflict that had prevailed in Sri Lanka for a number of years, the various faiths lived together in harmony, thanks to the principle of tolerance, which was a way of life for followers of Buddhism, the main religion in Sri Lanka. The International Buddhist Conference, held in November 1998, had urged that the Wesak Day, which was celebrated in May, should be declared a United Nations holiday. A resolution to that effect would be introduced in the General Assembly and his delegation was confident that it would receive the consideration of Member States that it richly deserved.

79. **Mr. Valdívieso** (Colombia), speaking on agenda item 108, said that the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention had painted a troublesome picture of the current world situation, drawing attention to four clear trends: increasing global consumption and the risk of increased and diversified sources of drug supply; the growing incidence of synthetic drugs; the closer interconnection among the criminal drug organizations operating in the different markets of the world; and the possible future legalization of the less dangerous drugs. International legal instruments and organs of control were not sufficient to counteract those trends; States should display the political will to act together, as they had already done in the conclusions adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. His delegation, which, as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and of the international group of experts, had contributed extensively to the final text, welcomed the forthcoming adoption by the General Assembly of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

80. A regrettable effect of globalization was that criminal organizations used modern means of transport, communications and international bank transfers in order to create new distribution networks and interact with those already in existence. He was therefore pleased to observe the progress achieved in elaborating the draft United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and its three protocols, one of which would penalize the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms. It was indispensable, moreover, that the private sector should manifest a firmer commitment in all countries, as recommended by the special session of the General Assembly. Financial institutions, the chemical industry and trading companies must refuse to lend themselves as

conduits for money-laundering, the diversion of chemical precursors or the smuggling of weapons.

81. His country was deeply committed to the efforts by the international community to put an end to the drug problem and, in view of the great advance in the fight against drugs in Colombia, it wished to share its experience with other countries and to hear of their own successful experiences. Very recently, the success of a multinational operation in capturing a group of criminals had made it possible to dismantle one of the most powerful structures of organized drug crime. To achieve peace in Colombia had become a national imperative, to which end his Government had proposed a plan of peace, prosperity and strengthening of the State to several other Governments and international organizations. It had also put into operation a new national plan to combat drugs for the years 1998 to 2002.

82. His country had also signed agreements with several countries (including the United States of America and the European Union) and international organizations, in addition to devising new arrangements with neighbouring countries for border surveillance and joint operations. Furthermore, within the inter-American family of nations, it had contributed to the design of a mechanism for multilateral evaluation.

83. **Ms. Leyton** (Chile), speaking on item 108, in which connection she associated herself with the statement of the Mexican representative, said that her country had taken an active part in all United Nations initiatives relating to the question of international drug control. She was convinced that the problems posed called for a concerted approach based on the principle of shared responsibilities and respect for the sovereignty of States, as well as for the relevant multilateral conventions.

84. At the regional level, her country had participated in the activities of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission and the Organization of American States and in the two inter-American presidential summit meetings held in 1994 and 1998. Within the context of the commitments linking it with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), it had also taken an active part in various subregional programmes, particularly concerning the establishment of information systems and the training of civil servants.

85. At the domestic level, Chile had taken the necessary legal measures to prevent and punish money-laundering and facilitate judicial cooperation. It also applied all the relevant treaties and agreements, in particular the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. The programmes set up to prevent

drug manufacture, trafficking and abuse had produced encouraging results, as reflected in the two most recent reports of the International Narcotics Control Board.

86. As for the elaboration of new programmes and strategies to reduce drug demand, Chile had chosen a global approach which, in addition to State intervention, called on the initiative of civil society. In particular, it was a matter of working with the latter in order to ensure the success of prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes. The implementation of such programmes should enable Chile to reduce considerably the demand for and trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances by the year 2008.

87. **Mr. Umeda** (Japan), speaking on item 107, said that, since the adoption of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime, Japan had intensified its efforts to promote international cooperation and to formulate and implement domestic measures against organized transnational crime. In that connection, he believed that priority should be given to the negotiations on the draft United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and its three protocols with a view to finalizing the text by the end of the year 2000.

88. In addition to the creation of legal instruments, voluntary international cooperation was important, on which score his Government was active in providing technical assistance in the field of information exchange and law enforcement cooperation. It had also presented three bills to the Japanese Diet (which had passed them on 13 August 1999), resulting in new laws which imposed severe penalties on organized crime, authorized the interception of electronic communications in connection with investigations of specific serious crimes and provided for the protection of witnesses during trial. Although the work done by the United Nations to develop international treaties and norms was to be commended, it was nevertheless the responsibility of each Government to implement such treaties and norms and enforce its own criminal justice programme. On that question, Japan was deeply concerned by the draft resolution on the question of the death penalty due to be presented by the European Union; the death penalty was a highly controversial issue which divided countries that should instead be working in close conjunction to fight crime.

89. Turning to item 108, he said that his Government welcomed the high-level political commitment made by the leaders of many countries to strengthen efforts for international drug control. He emphasized, however, the utmost importance of effective and prompt implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan.

90. With a view to breaking the vicious cycle of drug abuse, his Government attached importance to reducing drug demand, in which connection prevention was more effective than treatment and rehabilitation. As such, Japan fully supported the policy articulated in the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and believed that young people should be provided with unbiased and objective information about drug problems at the earliest stage possible.

91. The problem of the illicit production, trafficking and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants having now become a global issue, Japan supported UNDCP efforts to obtain information on the problem with a view to taking effective action.

92. Given the high priority attached to regional cooperation, Japan had hosted, as a follow-up to the special session of the General Assembly, an Asian conference on drug enforcement in February 1999 in Tokyo.

93. At the national level, his Government had, at the initiative of the Prime Minister, launched a new five-year strategy for the prevention of drug abuse which focused on young people, enforcement of the law against traffickers, border control and the improvement of medical services. Implementation of the strategy was proceeding quite well.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.



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Chairman: Mr. Caluska (Czech Republic)

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* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 106: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (continued) (A/C.3/54/L.10 and L.12)

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.10

1. **Ms. Enkhsetseg** (Mongolia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.10 on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Guyana, Israel, Malaysia, Malta, Namibia, the Russian Federation, Senegal, the Sudan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey, said that the importance of education and literacy was universally recognized. Without an education, people could not work productively, care for their health, support their families, or live culturally enriched lives. Illiteracy made it difficult for people to interact in society in a spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance and gender equality among all peoples and groups. The denial of education harmed the cause of democracy and social progress and, by extension, international peace and security.

2. The 1990 World Conference on Education for All had marked the emergence of an international consensus that education was the single most vital element in combating poverty, empowering women, protecting children from exploitation, promoting human rights and democracy, protecting the environment and influencing population growth.

3. Progress towards education for all had been much slower than anticipated, however, as the mid-decade review in June 1996 had revealed. Disparities between the privileged and the poor had widened, and with them, the threat of social instability and civil conflict, giving rise to an even greater need for education as an investment to promote peace, prosperity and human rights.

4. As pointed out in the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) report *The State of the World's Children 1999*, more than 130 million children in developing countries, including 73 million girls, were growing up without access to basic education. The world could no longer afford such an enormous waste of human potential. The international community must take decisive action to reverse that trend.

5. The sponsors of the draft resolution believed that it would command the widest support of the Committee.

Draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.12

6. **Mrs. Elisha** (Benin), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.12 on behalf of the sponsors, who had been joined by Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Ghana, Liberia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Panama, the Philippines, Senegal and Thailand, noted that since the celebration of the International Year of the Family in 1994, a number of world conferences had been held on family-related topics. Many of the recommendations of those conferences sought to strengthen the family. The draft resolution was meant to be a reminder of the importance of the International Year of the Family and of the need to keep the objectives of the Year in focus.

7. Paragraph 3 had been revised to read: "*Urges* Governments to continue to take sustained action at all levels, including the conduct of studies and applied research on families and, in particular, to promote the role of families in development, and invites Governments to develop concrete measures and approaches to address family issues as a matter of national priority".

8. Paragraph 6 should read: "*Invites* the Commission for Social Development, when adopting its next multi-year programme of work, to consider undertaking a review of the global situation of families in 2004".

9. Paragraph 7 should read: "*Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council on appropriate ways and means to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 and to submit the report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session through the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council".

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice (continued) (A/54/3, A/54/69-E/1999/8 and A/54/69/Add.1-E/1999/8/Add.1, A/54/289 and A/54/340; A/C.3/54/2; A/C.3/54/L.3, L.4, L.5 and L.6)

Agenda item 108: International drug control (continued) (A/54/3, A/54/186, A/54/293-E/1999/119 and A/54/314-S/1999/942; A/C.3/54/L.7)

10. **Mr. Kazykhanov** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the delegations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and his own delegation, said that drug trafficking and drug abuse had reached such proportions that no State could remain indifferent. The clear link between drug trafficking, terrorism, transnational crime and money-

laundering was particularly disturbing. The role of the United Nations was crucial for strengthening international cooperation.

11. The delegations on whose behalf he was speaking reaffirmed their support for the steps taken by the Secretary-General to strengthen the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and for the work of UNDCP; in particular, they supported UNDCP projects to improve the technical capacity of border services. They hoped that the visit to the Russian Federation of the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention in September 1999 would promote the development of cooperation between the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and the United Nations.

12. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly in June 1998 had marked a new stage in the struggle against the drug threat. The countries on whose behalf he was speaking reaffirmed their full support for the Political Declaration adopted at the special session and, in particular, the principle of shared responsibility. They were coordinating measures and actions at the national and regional levels to combat the drug threat.

13. The meetings of the council of heads of security bodies and special services of the States members of CIS and of the Council of Ministers of Internal Affairs in September 1999 had considered, among other matters, the implementation of joint measures to combat organized crime and other dangerous crimes in the territories of the CIS countries for the period up to the year 2000, adopted by the Council of Heads of State in May 1996. The CIS countries had adopted national legislation on the basis of the model law on trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances adopted by the parliamentary assembly of CIS countries in November 1997.

14. For several years, a number of CIS States had successfully conducted the "Canal" operation to close off illicit trafficking routes, particularly along the borders of Belarus, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. In August 1998, Kazakh and Russian specialists had uncovered over 800 drug crimes and seized 200 kg of narcotics and contraband.

15. In May 1996, in the face of the common threat from drugs in the Central Asian region, a memorandum of understanding to combat illicit drug trafficking and drug use had been signed in Tashkent between Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and UNDCP. The Russian Federation had later acceded to the document. At the second meeting of the parties, a protocol had been signed providing for the further expansion of cooperation and for

an increase in financial and technical support from UNDCP. During an official visit to Kyrgyzstan by the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, issues of combating the spread of drugs in Central Asia had been discussed. The decisions adopted in September 1999 at the first session of the inter-State commission of the Central Asian economic community had provided for the further development of cooperation in drug control. The CIS countries were also taking steps to establish a legal basis for bilateral cooperation in combating illegal drug trafficking, which had already enabled dozens of international drug routes to be eliminated.

16. The countries on whose behalf he was speaking were prepared to engage in the closest cooperation with the United Nations and specialized agencies and also all other States in order to eliminate illicit drugs.

17. Ms. **Freudenschuss-Reichl** (Austria) said that her delegation fully associated itself with the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union.

18. The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action had established a clear link between drug control, crime prevention and social development. Those linkages should continue to be highlighted. Austria believed that the issues of the prevention of the initial use of psychoactive substances, the necessity for drug-control strategies to address both women and men with equal effect, and social reintegration of drug users should be integrated into the documents for the special session on the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development.

19. Austria was an entry point for illicit substances into the European Union. It was deeply concerned about the explosive rise in opium production in Afghanistan, and appreciated the efforts being undertaken by UNDCP to strengthen border controls and law-enforcement capacities in neighbouring countries. Her Government, together with Kazakhstan and UNDCP, had organized an international conference on drugs that would involve experts from five Central Asian States as well as the Russian Federation. The purpose was to assess the situation, strengthen cooperation among law-enforcement experts, and exchange information in the area of demand reduction. Austria hoped that others would be inspired to become active in the region.

20. In order to ensure the widest possible participation in the fifth session of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Austria had joined other countries in providing support for the participation of the least developed countries. It was concerned about the slow progress of negotiations, and

appealed to the Bureau to exercise leadership to steer the negotiations to a timely conclusion in 2000.

21. Much progress had been made in promoting consensus on additional protocol against the smuggling of migrants, the aim being to penalize the smugglers, not the migrants simply on account of being smuggled. Progress had also been made on how to close loopholes, including smuggling in third countries and questions of definitions; at the next round of formal negotiations, in December 1999, it should be possible to consolidate the informal understandings reached.

22. The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, to be held in Vienna in April 2000, would be a prime occasion to make the Convention and its three protocols operational by forging the necessary technical cooperation links. A high-level segment would allow heads of State and Government, as well as ministers and attorneys-general, to exchange views on the role of the United Nations in crime prevention and technical cooperation, and the technical workshops of the Congress would provide opportunities for sharing good practices and lessons learned on a number of pressing topics.

23. At the twentieth anniversary of the Vienna International Centre, in October 1999, Austria's Secretary of State had announced a special contribution of 6 million Austrian schillings to the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Austria hoped that international cooperation would continue to flourish and that Governments would give the Centre the mandates and means commensurate with the challenges ahead.

24. **Mr. Baali** (Algeria) stressed the need to fulfil commitments made at the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, in particular with respect to judicial cooperation, drug trafficking and abuse, chemical precursors and money-laundering. It was encouraging that demand and supply reduction were finally being viewed as interdependent. The incorporation into domestic law of international instruments and other appropriate control measures would provide further impetus to international cooperation. UNDCP should, however, make Africa a budgetary priority, since the continent had become an important transit centre for drug trafficking, with a consequent increase in consumption among young Africans. In that connection, the agreement between UNDCP and the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on capacity-building for drug control was a significant development. The Bretton Woods institutions should be urged to help mobilize resources for the OAU drug strategy; the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the

Treatment of Offenders must also be accorded the necessary resources.

25. Although neither a producer nor a significant consumer of drugs, Algeria was a transit country. In addition to establishing appropriate institutional mechanisms, his Government had responded to the problem by devising a national anti-drug strategy: to strengthen preventive action; to improve rehabilitation services; to review legislation; and to strengthen control measures. Drug-awareness campaigns had also been conducted by the media and the education system. Algeria was committed to fulfilling its international commitments and would continue to cooperate with the United Nations on drug control.

26. Sustained and concerted international cooperation was essential if the global drug problem was to be tackled effectively. Accordingly, implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime should be furthered. The recent adoption by OAU of a convention on terrorism and of a resolution on the illicit trafficking of firearms revealed the determination of African nations to address the roots of the conflicts and violence afflicting the continent. The Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime should redouble its efforts so that its task might be completed in time. Moreover, in view of the disastrous impact of corruption on development efforts, his delegation was in favour of the elaboration of an international convention dealing with all aspects of that problem.

27. The fight against drugs and organized crime called for urgent mobilization of political will at a level commensurate with the task at hand. The international community had the responsibility of ensuring that future generations inherited a world of peace, security and solidarity — most importantly, a world without fear.

28. **Mr. Fadaifard** (Islamic Republic of Iran) stressed the deleterious effects of drug trafficking and transnational organized crime on the social cohesion of nations and on the international community as a whole.

29. Despite fortifications on its eastern borders, the country continued to be used as the shortest land route for the transit of narcotics, mostly from producers in Afghanistan to consumers in Europe. His Government continued to invest colossal sums in tackling the problem and was involved in full-scale war against traffickers equipped with the latest military technology. Each year, substantial seizures of narcotics were made. However, the cost in human terms was also great: more than 2,700 law-

enforcement personnel had died over the past 20 years in the war against drug trafficking.

30. Although the measures implemented by his Government had above all benefited consumer countries in Europe, a number of those countries appeared reluctant to meet their responsibilities. Instead, in human-rights forums, they had sought to criticize the Islamic Republic of Iran over its harsh anti-drug measures.

31. Illicit poppy cultivation in Afghanistan — which had reached unprecedented levels over the past year — should be a matter of utmost concern to both the region and the international community. Given that Afghanistan was now the world's main opium producer, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should consider the drug situation in Afghanistan as a matter of priority. The establishment, with the assistance of UNDCP, of a central coordination unit within the secretariat of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) in Tehran was a particularly encouraging development. UNDCP could, however, play an even more important role in stimulating regional action against illicit drug trafficking.

32. His delegation was also appreciative of the memorandum of understanding signed between the United Nations and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the need for joint efforts against trafficking. The establishment of a UNDCP office in Tehran was also highly welcome.

33. It was regrettable that the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse (1991-2000) had seen only an increase in the non-medical use of drugs. A further worrying development — in Europe particularly — was the use of the Internet and other media for advertising illicit drugs. Such an activity was not only incompatible with international drug-control treaties; it also could not be justified on the pretext of freedom of expression.

34. His delegation was also concerned that technical issues, such as whether psychotropic substances should be used for medical purposes, should be decided by science and not put to public vote. It was clear that not all Member States agreed on how to tackle the drug problem: even though the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and the World Health Organization (WHO) had stipulated that no form of non-medical use was healthy, certain countries, mostly European, continued to prescribe heroin to severely dependent addicts. It was therefore essential that such experiments should be evaluated independently. Double standards in international action against drugs were clearly compromising the well-being of the international community as a whole.

35. His Government was determined to continue its efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking in the region; however, no Government acting alone could hope to combat the drug menace; international cooperation was a prerequisite for success.

36. **Mr. Ka** (Senegal) said that the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had shown that the international community was resolved that the fight against drugs was a global issue requiring an integrated, participatory and cross-border approach. The links between drugs, money-laundering, organized arms trafficking and terrorism could not be overstated, nor could their impact on the food security and economy of developing nations. Not only did drugs have a destabilizing effect; they also compromised the security and territorial integrity of nations and the future of young people. The international fight against drugs was also a fight for democracy, civil rights and peace, as well as a fight against corruption, HIV/AIDS and urban violence.

37. Africa had become a vital link in the chain of transnational organized crime, and a supplier of cannabis to Europe and North America, despite the implementation of numerous regional anti-drug strategies, notably under the auspices of OAU and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The report of the Secretary-General (A/54/186) had omitted to mention the considerable follow-up to the special session carried out at various levels in Africa, with UNDCP cooperation.

38. Senegal had been host to the UNDCP regional office since 1995. The country had imposed stringent border controls, and sizeable drug seizures had testified to the efficacy of the measures adopted. With the assistance of UNDCP and other partners, the Government had also furthered the implementation of its national plan of action against drugs. Its main objectives were to strengthen institutional and operational capacities; to improve coordination of control efforts; to intensify preventive action through awareness-raising and educational activities; and to provide for the rehabilitation of addicts. Legislation had been adopted in line with relevant United Nations instruments, and institutional mechanisms had been created, including an inter-ministerial mechanism for ensuring policy coordination and a centralized body for coordinating control activities.

39. Although it was incumbent upon Governments to incorporate international instruments into domestic law, the globalized nature of illicit drug trafficking called for concerted international action — hence the importance of strengthening UNDCP capacities.

40. **Mr. Gal** (Israel) said that the Israeli national police force had modified its policies in the previous two years, resulting in a decrease in the number of severe criminal offenses. The new quality-management method, which required all members of the force to work towards preset objectives and to focus on a defined subject, had brought the steady rise in crime to a halt and even reduced it. To ensure success, performance indicators had been established to measure objectives and achievements. By the year 2000, the entire force would be following that method.

41. During 10 years of dealing with the problem of drugs, Israel had improved its strategies. At the outset, it had applied a multifaceted approach, dividing its resources among the various traditional aspects of anti-drug programmes: prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, community action, law enforcement, and human-resources development. It had later redefined its goals, and had chosen to emphasize prevention and education, with special focus on children. Measures should also be taken to strengthen regional cooperation and improve law enforcement, particularly interdiction. Israel nevertheless continued to believe in a balanced approach, aimed at reducing both demand and supply.

42. The fundamental purpose was to create a social atmosphere that rejected the use of drugs, which included a mass-media climate that condemned both drug use and drug users. That did not mean, however, that care to addicts would be neglected. Efforts were being focused on the development of programmes for children and teenagers at high risk: for young people who were already habitual drug users and addicts; and for occasional users. A guidance centre to document preventive activity, both locally and nationally, was in the planning stages, and computerized prevention programmes were being developed. In addition, two media campaigns were conducted yearly, with a view to altering the public's attitude toward drugs. In the view of Israel, a combination of education, prevention, treatment and law enforcement could serve to curb drug use.

43. The national police maintained fruitful cooperation with other police forces around the world. Israeli legislation had recently been amended to broaden the scope of legal assistance in criminal matters, and now provided for special legal assistance during investigations and the enforcement of forfeiture orders in drug-trafficking offenses. In addition, Israel was in the process of criminalizing money-laundering, with forfeiture of the proceeds.

44. Israel would be glad to share its knowledge in all spheres of the fight against drugs, including prevention among special target groups such as minorities and alienated

youth; prisoner and ex-convict rehabilitation; and law enforcement. Israel also, however, required assistance from the international community. Direct support from UNDCP would allow Israel to improve its border-interdiction ability and to replace outdated equipment, thereby drastically reducing the volume of drugs entering the country. Only through regional, subregional and international cooperation could the spread of drugs be stopped.

45. **Mr. Balanandan** (India) said that criminality and globalization were inextricably linked. The collapse of regulatory mechanisms in the face of liberalization and globalization in tandem with the new communications technologies had opened up new vistas for crime. Electronic banking and e-mail commerce would usher in crime cartels which would be difficult to counter unless mechanisms for tracking and punishing offenders were established. Globalized crime required a new approach toward dealing with crime prevention, criminal justice, and the treatment of offenders. In that regard, the twentieth special session of the General Assembly had been a landmark event.

46. Although appreciative of the many efforts undertaken by the United Nations in the war against drugs, India would have welcomed a reference, in the Secretary-General's report on crime prevention and criminal justice (A/54/289), to the meteoric increase in the production of opium in the vicinity of India. The 1999 opium poppy survey conducted by UNDCP had shown that Afghanistan annually produced over 4,500 tons of opium, amounting to 75 per cent of the world's opium production, or equivalent to over 450,000 kilograms of heroin. It represented a farmgate value of over US\$ 180 million, a sum which could purchase up to 6 million automatic rifles. The use of drug profits to export fundamentalist terrorism was a heinous abuse of human rights: the Government of India called upon the nations of the world to put a stop to it.

47. No illicit drugs were produced in India, nor was drug abuse a major problem. And yet, India had signed all relevant conventions, on the grounds that relaxed vigilance could impair fundamental freedoms. It had adopted a community-based approach to reducing the demand for drugs, using faith groups, non-governmental organizations and social clubs. It had set up detoxification centres, and drug dealers were dealt with severely. Measures had been taken to monitor borders, control inland trade, and punish money-laundering. Through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Indian Narcotics Control Bureau was working vigorously with its international counterparts to curb the menace of drug use worldwide.

48. **Mr. Amorós Nuñez** (Cuba) said that the immense efforts being undertaken to combat the drug scourge were not succeeding. The extraordinary growth of the world market in illicit drugs had been bolstered by globalization and increased demand. Cuba hoped that the agreements reached at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly would become a solid foundation for genuine international cooperation carried out with respect for international law, the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity, and no use or threat of use of force. Any violation of those precepts would exacerbate violence and chaos in many countries. Cuba reiterated its condemnation of the unilateral actions taken by the world's largest drug-consuming State which, while acting as an arbiter of international conduct, had failed to resolve the problem at home.

49. The Cuban Government was distressed by the growing notion among certain Governments that the struggle against drug trafficking justified violations of national law and the principles of international cooperation. Shared responsibility, a comprehensive view of all phases of production, and the equal treatment of all actors should continue to be guiding principles for relations between States. It was essential for industrialized countries to provide greater contributions to developing countries, so as to allow them to develop feasible mechanisms for fighting drug trafficking. Through the assistance of UNDCP, Cuba had expanded its personnel-training programmes and had consolidated technical and material support. It resolutely supported the work of the International Narcotics Control Board, the only independent competent authority of worldwide scope.

50. Although drug use was not a significant social problem in Cuba, the Government nonetheless contributed to the international effort to combat that scourge. Situated near one of the world's largest centres of drug consumption, Cuba had taken strong measures to prevent the use of its national territory by drug traffickers. In the preceding decades, the Cuban authorities had arrested hundreds of drug traffickers and confiscated dozens of foreign aircraft and boats, 80 per cent of which came from the United States of America. During the first half of 1999 alone, Cuba had seized over 4,500 kilograms of cocaine along its coastline. But the Government's efforts did more than merely prevent the spread of drug use in Cuba: they also greatly assisted consumer countries like the United States, despite immense costs, outdated equipment and a lack of consistent cooperation from that country. Cuba had established bilateral agreements in the area of drug trafficking with 23 countries

and was cooperating with the enforcement agencies of 13 more.

51. In July 1999, the Government had submitted an official proposal to the United States Government, stating that it was willing to cooperate at the current level or at higher levels, and that in any event Cuba would continue to carry out its moral responsibility to the international community. There should be no half measures in the fight against drugs: they must be eradicated or they would erode the foundations of human civilization.

52. **Mr. Tudela** (Peru) said that although Peru agreed with the statement made by the coordinator of the Rio Group, it believed that a permanent commitment to the elimination of drug trafficking should be reaffirmed. Translating its principles into action, the Government had established national mechanisms both for interdiction and for alternative-development projects. Drug trafficking was indeed a complex problem: it encouraged consumers to commit crimes, criminalized peasants involved in drug production, violated international safeguards and undermined international security. Traffickers threatened, and sought to corrupt, public authorities and murdered public officials. Drug trafficking was linked to terrorism, declared war on the whole society, and was practised on such a vast scale that it affected the international financial system.

53. The decision to share responsibility among producers and consumers was a positive new development, and should serve to accord all strategical elements their due importance: interdiction, alternative development, protection of the environment, chemical use, and the cooperation of the courts. Between 1985 and 1990, the production of coca in Peru had risen dramatically; since that time, through internal pacification, the Government had succeeded in cutting production by half. It believed that a resurgence of coca plantations could be avoided by expanding and strengthening alternative development. It was seeking to develop secure production systems that would combine farming and forestry, with emphasis on crop rotation. Peru profoundly believed that breaking the production chain of cocaine, the most lucrative drug, was the best way to halt the drug traffic. To that end, it was endeavouring to teach peasants legal productive uses of tropical land.

54. A group of donors, meeting in Brussels in November 1998, had allocated US\$ 300 million for alternative development; Peru had proposed a new meeting to be held in December 1999 in Paris. That was an important moment for Peru, which for the first time had achieved a consensus among all parties as to the importance of its alternative-development projects. The Government was working to meet

its deadlines and to implement the outcome of the twentieth special session.

55. Mr. Omelish (Jordan) said that greater international, regional and national efforts were needed to combat the drug problem, which had been exacerbated in that the development of modern communications had facilitated the traffic in drugs, as well as their manufacture and distribution. Fully aware of the drug problem, which had a corrosive impact on society and on the economy, Jordan devoted much attention to maintaining its status quo as neither a producer nor a consumer of drugs, and coordinated efforts with other countries in the quest to eliminate the drug traffic.

56. To that end, it had established a national committee as part of a comprehensive strategy to combat drugs and to develop relevant legislation. A special department, operating through the media and by means of seminars and lectures, sought to raise public awareness of the drug scourge and encourage local communities to take preventive steps. Within the limits of its resources, Jordan was also doing its utmost to provide the best possible treatment and rehabilitation for drug addicts. Moreover, it engaged in regional and international cooperation to exchange information on drug trafficking and to coordinate joint anti-drug efforts, and took part in international conferences on the subject. He reaffirmed Jordan's support for all efforts, including the elaboration of international agreements, to eliminate the scourge of drugs from the world, to which end it offered its full cooperation.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/54/3, A/54/69-E/1999/8 and Add. 1, A/54/289 and 340, A/C.3/54/2, A/C.3/54/L.3, L.4, L.5 and L.6)

Agenda item 108: International drug control (*continued*) (A/54/3 and 186, A/54/293-E/1999/119, A/54/314-S/1999/942 and A/C.3/54/L.7)

1. **Mr. Tarabrin** (Russian Federation) said that maximum use must be made of the potential of the United Nations to define a single anti-crime strategy for the world community and welcomed the Organization's practical steps to combat crime and focus on priority areas for anti-crime cooperation. His delegation commended, in particular, the work carried out at the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and supported the draft resolutions recommended for adoption by the General Assembly. The Russian Federation also highly commended the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and was prepared to support fully its activities so that the drafting of the convention and the three additional international legal instruments could be completed in the year 2000.

2. International cooperation to combat crime must be supported by adequate measures at the regional level. That was a main priority of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), whose experience in that field would be useful for other countries. The G-8 conference of ministers on combating transnational organized crime would be convened in Moscow in October 1999 and would continue the work begun in Washington in December 1997. The conference's objectives included stepping up efforts by law enforcement agencies to counteract transnational crime, particularly in the field of financial crime, and combating crime in the area of advanced technology.

3. The Russian Federation, which was taking strong anti-crime measures at the national and international levels, had recently signed the 1990 European Convention on Laundering Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds of Crime and had ratified European conventions on extradition and reciprocal legal assistance in criminal matters. His Government also sought to establish a reliable system of bilateral legal relations with other countries in that field. Efforts to combat corruption and money laundering were a major component of the Russian Federation's anti-crime activities. Corruption and money laundering were not the problem of the Russian Federation alone, and his country

had repeatedly demonstrated its readiness to combat them at both the national and international level.

4. The Russian Federation, which was a party to all the United Nations anti-drug conventions, called upon all States that had not done so to accede to the basic international legal instruments in that field to ensure their universality and stressed the need for the full implementation of the documents adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. His country supported General Assembly resolution 53/115 on international cooperation against the world drug problem, which contained an action plan for implementing the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. He highly commended the work of the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) in providing assistance to the Russian Government and hoped that major practical agreements could be reached giving further impetus to cooperation between his country and the United Nations in combating crime.

5. The Russian Federation was continuing to step up its activities against drug abuse and illegal trafficking. A law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances had recently entered into force, law enforcement agencies dealing with drug-related crimes were being strengthened, and centres were being set up for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. His country had established a network of bilateral intergovernmental and inter-agency agreements on cooperation in combating illegal drug trafficking. Cooperation in that field was also being expanded within the Commonwealth of Independent States. The Russian Federation was open to cooperation with all States in the fight against international crime and drug trafficking.

6. **Mr. Jayanama** (Thailand), speaking on behalf of the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said that the upsurge in use of amphetamine-type stimulants was of particular concern to South-East Asia since it constituted a major threat to health and social development in the region. An all-out effort to tackle all aspects of the drug problem must be made; and measures to curb demand and supply must be taken simultaneously in a balanced manner and with strong follow-up action. He commended the twentieth special session of the General Assembly for adopting the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Program (UNDCP) in cooperating with countries to foster demand reduction.

7. In addressing the demand and supply aspects of the drug problem, ASEAN had adopted both preventive and

curative measures. Preventive measures included strengthening family institutions, raising public awareness of drug abuse, and prevention through education and public information campaigns. In the past two years, however, the Asian financial crisis had placed extreme pressures on families and society in the region, making it easier for drug abuse to spread. Programmes had to be designed to meet the specific needs of selected target groups, particularly children and youth. ASEAN continued to take serious and sustained measures to eradicate the problem of the supply and transshipment of drugs in South-East Asia. Its crop-substitution strategy had been so successful that UNDCP was considering using the South-East Asian experience as a model for similar efforts elsewhere.

8. The Association had also been intensifying its efforts to implement curative measures, which included treatment of drug abusers, suppression of criminal activities related to illegal drugs, strengthening cooperation among law enforcement agencies and exchanging information and experience. The recent establishment in Thailand of the International Law Enforcement Agency, a training institute for law enforcement officers from ASEAN countries, was a step in the right direction. Increased importance had been attached to dealing with practices that helped fuel the drug industry such as money laundering. The Association attached great importance to combating money laundering through effective national measures and regional cooperation efforts. The ASEAN countries were committed to adopting, by 2003, national money-laundering legislation and programmes and reaffirmed its support for the major decisions adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem.

9. The eradication of illicit drug trafficking required joint commitment and action at the regional and international levels. The ASEAN countries had held many regional meetings which had paved the way for launching new initiatives and reaffirming old commitments. As part of that effort, Thailand would host in 2000 an Asia-Pacific ministerial seminar on transnational organized crime focusing on the issues of drug trafficking and money laundering. The ASEAN countries commended the active role played by UNDCP in strengthening cooperation among the countries of the region by providing the necessary funds, resources and expertise. With the Programme's support, Thailand had held bilateral meetings on cooperation with Myanmar and Cambodia. UNDCP was also to be commended for developing a programme framework for cooperation in drug control in South-East Asia. Lastly, the Association reiterated its appeal to the international community to support ASEAN in its anti-drug war and was

ready to contribute to the global effort to meet that challenge.

10. **Mr. Rosa (Portugal)** said that his delegation fully supported the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union on the items under consideration. The twentieth session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem had been a fundamental step in mobilizing the efforts of the international community in that field. The Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction clearly affirmed the need to adopt overall national and international strategies to reduce both the demand and supply of drugs and set forth the principle of "shared responsibility", committing all countries to tackle the drug problem wherever it existed.

11. Portugal had some 20 years of experience in the fight against drugs and drug addiction and pursued an integrated national strategy in that field, whose guiding principles were based on a humanist and pragmatic approach aimed at reducing demand as well as supply. In order to reduce demand, Portugal was firmly committed to promoting the prevention of drug addiction and the treatment and social reintegration of addicts. Particular attention was given to the development of harm reduction programmes to minimize the damage caused by drug addiction to both the individual and society. The national strategy was designed to reinforce international cooperation in the fight against drugs, decriminalize drug use, focus on primary prevention by giving priority to action plans aimed at young people, ensure that all addicts had access to treatment and occupational reintegration mechanisms, expand harm reduction programmes and strengthen the fight against drug trafficking and money laundering by improving linkages with the various authorities involved. Portugal was committed to international cooperation, which was essential to anti-drug efforts and played an active role in that regard as a member of the European Union, the community of Ibero-American countries and the community of Portuguese-speaking countries.

12. **Mr. Regmi (Nepal)** remarked that the complex phenomenon of drug production, abuse and trafficking had acquired the status of transnational organized crime, and the determined efforts of the international community were required to combat it. His delegation therefore welcomed the United Nations involvement in that fight and the Secretary-General's report in document A/54/186. It appreciated the legal and technical assistance provided by UNDCP subsequent to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and hoped it would be intensified.

13. Nepal was fully committed to combating drug abuse and trafficking. Besides being a party to the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, it had taken action consistent with other relevant United Nations conventions, including formulating a national drug control policy and drug demand reduction strategy and adopting the Narcotic Drug Control Act. In addition, improvements had been made in its judicial and legal systems, and treatment and rehabilitation facilities and efforts to publicize the dangers of drug abuse had been increased.

14. As a member of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Nepal was a party to that body's Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and worked with other members to enhance drug control activities. Believing non-governmental organizations and civil society had a crucial role to play in combating drug abuse and trafficking, it particularly encouraged their activities in the fields of treatment and rehabilitation of victims of drug abuse, counselling of victims' families and dissemination of information.

15. As the Decade against Drug Abuse drew to a close, Nepal urged all States Members of the United Nations to promote cooperation in law enforcement, interdiction, establishment of intelligence information services and the development of a standard mechanism for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information concerning drug abuse and trafficking.

16. Mr. Bhatti (Pakistan) observed that, while there had been some success in achieving the aims of the Decade against Drug Abuse, advances in technology, transport and freedom of movement had been such that the illegal drug trade still accounted for some 8 per cent of world trade and the associated problem of money laundering for 2-5 per cent of global GDP. At the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, the international community had manifested a collective resolve to tackle the world drug problem in a comprehensive and balanced manner, with equal emphasis on demand reduction and drug supply.

17. Demand reduction was indispensable and his delegation therefore looked forward to the adoption at the General Assembly's current session of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. Alternative development could also do much to ease the drug problems: it reduced farmers' economic dependence on illicit crops and helped to integrate areas where such crops had been grown into national economies.

18. As a strong supporter of coordinated international efforts to combat drugs, Pakistan was a party to all three relevant United Nations conventions and had ratified the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961. It was also a party to the SAARC Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and had contributed to the establishment of the Economic Cooperation Organization's Committee on Narcotics Abuse Control. In addition, his country had agreements with all neighbouring countries on the exchange of drug-related intelligence and cooperated closely with many other countries on combating the drug problem.

19. Pakistan was a major victim of the drug culture: in some 20 years, it had gone from being virtually drug-free to being a country with some 1.2 million heroin addicts. Through faithful implementation of the Global Programme of Action and other vigorous efforts, it had, however, cut opium production by over 95 per cent from the 800 tons of the mid-1980s and was reducing the transit of drugs through its territory. In February it had, thanks to valuable technical and financial aid from UNDCP, launched a national Master Plan for Drug Abuse Control that had been prepared with the full involvement of provincial governments, non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

20. Pakistan's experience showed that, because of domestic violence and the breakdown of families, drug abuse had a disproportionately negative effect on women. A special effort had therefore been made to integrate gender issues in the Master Plan. Demand reduction was a major focus of the Plan and would be achieved through, for example, information campaigns, training of health workers to deliver home care and establishment of treatment and rehabilitation centres in regional hospitals. The Plan also aimed, through measures including extensive alternative development projects, at the total eradication of opium-poddy growing in Pakistan by the year 2000. All the heroin laboratories which had existed in Pakistan along the border with Afghanistan had already been destroyed. It was hoped that Pakistan would be drug-free by 2003.

21. Measures to eliminate the flow of illicit drugs through Pakistan were being intensified. Intelligence-gathering was being improved and procedures for investigating and prosecuting drug trafficking were being simplified. The recent Anti-Narcotics Act provided for the confiscation of drug-generated assets and for severe penalties, including capital punishment, for traffickers.

22. Ms. Ahmed (Sudan) said that international drug control was a shared responsibility requiring a complementary and balanced approach which fully respected

the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and all human rights. Her country was a party to all the relevant international conventions, and was convinced that drugs posed a great danger to youth and society. The laundering of money accruing from illegal drug trafficking, and the use of such money in order to finance illegal activities, such as providing financial support for armed rebel movements that threatened legitimate Governments, posed a threat to international peace and security and made it essential for the international community to cooperate with the relevant international bodies.

23. The Sudan itself did not have a serious drug problem, but its geographical location meant that drugs might be smuggled across its territory. It therefore continued to take every measure in order to control the problem and, to that end, had enacted legislation that included the death penalty for drug trafficking. Her country considered it the sovereign right of every State to enact such laws as it considered appropriate. The Sudan respected the choices made by other States and expected similar respect in return. Her delegation had wished to make that clear, in view of the draft resolution on that subject introduced by the European Union, and to point out that the death penalty was a matter on which there was as yet no international consensus.

24. In his report (A/54/340) on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, the Secretary-General had stated that the outstanding balance in assessed financial contributions of Member States was immense. Her delegation stressed the need to provide the Institute with the financial and human resources necessary to implement its work programme, and urged that additional resources should be allocated to it for the biennium 2000-2001.

25. **Mr. Diao Mingsheng** (People's Republic of China) said that, while the end of the millennium was proving a period of rapid growth, crime, especially transnational organized crime, continued generally to endanger political stability and economic development. Reflecting the international community's concern at that, the United Nations had been increasing its attention to crime prevention and criminal justice, a development which his delegation both appreciated and supported.

26. The Chinese Government had actively implemented the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime and participated in related United Nations activities. The Chinese Criminal Code widely reflected international experience in preventing and controlling transnational organized crime, and Chinese law enforcement agencies, with their special squads for

dealing with such crime, had achieved notable successes in joint efforts with their counterparts from other countries. The Chinese Government was ready further to expand its cooperation with other countries and international organizations in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice.

27. In that regard, serious attention should be paid to preparation for, and participation in the Tenth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Congress should be fully utilized for an exchange of views and experience and the formulation of synergetic strategies and common guidelines for crime prevention and criminal justice. More attention should be paid to the drafting of an international convention against transnational organized crime and the related protocols. To make them acceptable to more countries, those instruments should fully incorporate the general models in the existing international conventions against transnational crime and the basic principles governing legal assistance in criminal justice. Developed countries in particular should be more flexible and take fully into account developing countries' concerns over issues such as the principle of sovereignty and financial and technical assistance.

28. The United Nations central role in, and its resources for coordinating the fight against transnational organized crime should be further strengthened. More United Nations resources for related technical assistance should be channelled to the neediest developing countries. His delegation believed that every country was entitled to take all necessary measures, in the light of its domestic law and circumstances, to punish the perpetrators of serious crimes. China respected the choice made by some countries to abolish the death penalty and hoped for corresponding respect of its own choice of ways of protecting its people and maintaining stable economic and social development. Differences on the issue of the death penalty were only natural and should not impede international cooperation in the fight against crime.

29. **Mr. Krokhmal** (Ukraine), speaking on behalf of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, said that organized crime and drug trafficking were among the most dangerous challenges in the modern world: they did not recognize national borders and were a threat to international security. The United Nations had an important role to play in coordinating States' efforts to combat those problems and in developing relevant international law, and the capacities of its crime prevention and international drug control bodies must be strengthened.

30. In that respect, Ukraine and Moldova welcomed the forthcoming Tenth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders and hoped that it would consider criminal justice, prevention of organized crime, the rule of law and community involvement in crime prevention as a set of issues on which international cooperation was critical for the entire world. While national action remained of paramount importance, it could be greatly enhanced by bilateral, regional and global cooperation with full United Nations involvement. The delegations of Ukraine and Moldova therefore supported the work being done within the United Nations to draft a convention against transnational organized crime, as well as the issuance of the Declaration against Corruption and Bribery in International Commercial Transactions and the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials and the elaboration of model treaties on international cooperation in criminal matters.

31. Combating crime and corruption was among Ukraine's priorities. The Government was implementing a programme of action on crime prevention for the period 1996-2000 and had concluded over 60 judicial assistance agreements with other countries. It was also drafting a law on combating money laundering. Ukraine's and Moldova's concern with such efforts reflected crime's negative impact on their economies, a burden aggravated by the continuing economic and social reform in those emerging democracies.

32. Ukraine strongly supported the strategy pursued by the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs for combating drug abuse, as well as the outcomes of the Commission's forty-second session and of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Policy-making and practical activities within the framework of UNDCP and the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) had generated important decisions showing how to achieve success in combating the drug problem.

33. Ukraine's active efforts to solve that problem included implementation of a national programme for 1996-2000 to counter drug abuse and the illicit circulation of drugs, as well as the promotion of bilateral and regional cooperation through, for example, the Centre for the Exchange of Drug Information of the Countries of the Black Sea Basin. His country had drawn on international experience and UNDCP recommendations in developing an extensive body of law to combat drug abuse and illicit trafficking, and the procedure for Ukrainian accession to the 1972 Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 was near completion. Ukraine and Moldova were interested in further cooperation with UNDCP and the Centre for International Crime Prevention. Both countries believed in

the international community's ability, under United Nations leadership, to halt the escalation of crime and drug abuse.

34. **Mr. Beers** (United States of America) said that the United Nations offered a powerful defence against transnational crime: international cooperation, which was capable of identifying and dismantling criminal syndicates, prosecuting and imprisoning criminal leaders, freezing and seizing criminal assets, and developing ways to counter crime networks. The tools, lessons, and enhanced communication that had resulted from cooperation could, in addition, be wielded against both drugs and crime. On the basis of those lessons, the international community had begun to map out more effective strategies for the new millennium. Among them was the draft convention against transnational organized crime, and its accompanying protocol. That set of instruments must be finalized by 2000, so that implementation could effectively begin.

35. Commitments had been made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, and clear targets and objectives set out for their fulfilment. The Centre for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDC) needed support; all countries should increase their contributions to both of those organizations. In 1999, the Government of the United States had contributed 1 million US dollars to the Centre for International Crime Prevention and 25 million US dollars to UNDCP, in both cases a dramatic increase over previous years. Believing that domestic programmes must be the cornerstone of international cooperation, his Government had also devoted 18 billion to its 1999 anti-drug budget for the implementation of the United States National Drug Control Strategy, which aimed to eliminate drug use at all levels of society, cut drug use by half during the coming decade, and target international supply sources. Nearly one third of the budget of the current year had been allocated for demand reduction, with emphasis on educating youth, parents and mentors; an anti-drug youth media campaign had been launched to counter the glamorization of drug use. In addition, the United States funded institutions in drug-source countries that were tackling drug organizations, drug money, and drug-producing crops.

36. Many nations had achieved measurable results towards eliminating or reducing illicit drug crops. In South Asia, however, although Pakistan had made gains in reducing poppy cultivation, not all neighbouring countries had cooperated. The international community must take quick action to counter the increase in poppy production in Afghanistan, from which the Taliban profited. For their part, East Asian Governments should bolster enforcement actions against opium production, which had begun to decline partly

due to bad weather. All three Andean coca-producing countries had taken dramatic actions to reduce cultivation. Peru had cut cultivation by half, and Bolivia expected to eliminate it in the coming two years. In Colombia, drug criminals had strengthened alliances with guerilla networks and were thwarting that Government's efforts, a problem that all countries should help to solve.

37. The United States looked forward to greater cooperation with African countries, where drug abuse and trafficking were escalating. It planned, *inter alia*, to continue to hold annual forums with the Southern African Development Community (SADC), confer with the Southern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization and SADC on the establishment of an international law enforcement academy in Africa, collaborate with South Africa on justice and law enforcement issues, and help Nigeria in its fight against international crime.

38. The commitments made at the twentieth special session had begun to result in a greater number of prosecutions throughout the world. Efforts to deny raw materials to drug organizations were vital. Operation Purple, which aimed to track all potassium permanganate transactions, had led to a significant number of seized and stopped shipments. Targeting the infrastructures of drug traffickers was useless so long as they retained their profits and safe havens. All countries should adopt and implement legislation to freeze and seize assets and to remove such barriers as bank secrecy. Since traffickers were moving to off-shore havens, activist diplomacy would be needed to create new international standards and to pressure jurisdictions that were licensing their financial sectors to criminals, terrorists and looters.

39. To ensure progress, assessments were necessary. A peer-evaluation mechanism had recently been launched in the Western Hemisphere and the first evaluation would be conducted in 2000. The new reporting assessment process — by which countries would report twice yearly to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs — was an obligation that must be strictly complied with. Tools to combat the drug trade must be strengthened to confront international crime syndicates. In 1998, President Clinton had signed the first international crime strategy in history; a document which sought to promote the rule of law, with emphasis on denying safe havens to international criminals. The United States Government also provided assistance for the development and harmonization of credible justice systems and offered training to police, prosecutors, judges and investigators throughout the world.

40. **Ms. Martinez** (Ecuador) said that her delegation shared the views expressed by Mexico on behalf of the Rio

Group. The Ecuadorian President had introduced a national drug prevention plan in June 1999, which was designed to invigorate the existing legal framework, maximize technical and financial assistance at national and international levels, and address both drug abuse and drug trafficking, with emphasis on prevention and rehabilitation. Although Ecuador had successfully switched over to alternative crops, it wished to encourage the production of other legal export crops, a process which would be furthered by open international trade policies.

41. At the meeting of the Organization of American States in June 1999, Ecuador had supported an initiative put forward by Canada which envisaged the individual as a point of reference for the development of policies and dealt with the question of drugs from a human-security perspective. In keeping with other initiatives that sought to strengthen democracy and the quality of life, that viewpoint placed the responsibility for combating drugs on all social development sectors, rather than on anti-drug authorities alone.

42. Solving the problem of drug abuse depended largely on reducing demand. It was worth noting that Ecuadorian youths who had taken part in the World Youth Forum held in Portugal in 1999 had undertaken to fight for a drug-free society. With their support, the Ecuadorian Government was prepared to fulfill its commitment to raising the awareness of the population regarding the danger of drugs.

43. **Mr. Kouliev** (Azerbaijan) said that his Government was taking measures to fight drug abuse and drug trafficking, in accordance with the commitments it had made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. In January 1999, Azerbaijan had acceded to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971. It had become a party to all three conventions on international drug control and had integrated them into its national legal system. In addition, the Azerbaijan State Commission on Drug Control was continuing to implement the national drug control plan on the basis of recommendations made by UNDCP and other international organizations.

44. In 1999, 2,500 drug-related crimes had been registered, twice as many as in 1993; the number of such crimes committed by groups had increased by about seven times, and the number of persons involved had also grown. Nevertheless, Government efforts had resulted in a reduction in both the number of crimes committed and the quantity of drugs seized in 1998, as compared to the previous two years. Azerbaijan currently had 53 drug-treatment clinics and centres throughout the country, and both governmental and

non-governmental entities were continuing their efforts to eradicate drug use, especially among young people.

45. Located at the junction of Europe and Asia, Azerbaijan was an attractive route for massive drug transfers, a situation aggravated by the Armenian occupation. There were a number of areas in the Caucasus region that were beyond the rule of law — and well beyond the reach of national and international monitoring mechanisms, including a 132-kilometre stretch of border between Azerbaijan and Iran, which offered an open field for drug shipments and drug cultivation. Azerbaijan nevertheless called on the countries of the world to respect the terms of the Baku Accord on Regional Cooperation against Illicit Cultivation, Production, Trafficking, Distribution and Consumption of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors, which emphasized the negative consequences of violating territorial integrity to prevent illicit drug trafficking.

46. Cooperation had been established between the law enforcement agencies of Azerbaijan and Georgia; the UNDCP strategy for the region of the Economic Cooperation Organization was also worthy of note. A large number of foreign citizens involved in the drug trade had been apprehended in Azerbaijan in recent years. A growing number of organized criminal groups worked with similar groups in Central Asian and other newly independent States and in Middle Eastern States and employed new and sophisticated drug-trafficking techniques. To cope with that threat, Azerbaijani law-enforcement agencies would need special equipment and staff-training programmes.

47. His country supported a holistic approach to the drug problem and stressed the need to continue the programme jointly sponsored by the Government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), which aimed to reduce illicit drug trafficking in Azerbaijan by strengthening law-enforcement activities and monitoring drug abuse. That programme had a budget of \$863,000, an insufficient sum to cover the costs. For the successful implementation of its national plan, Azerbaijan would need further assistance from UNDCP as well as from other international bodies and donor countries. In view of the conflict in the region, both regional and national programmes must be emphasized. A coordinated approach to international cooperation was essential.

48. Mr. Matuszewski (Poland) said that his Government aligned itself with the statement made by Finland on behalf of the European Union with regard to both of the items under consideration. In view of the dangerous escalation of international organized crime, exacerbated by globalization,

the international community must mobilize fresh resources and reconsider its strategies. The substantial progress made on the elaboration of a draft convention against transnational organized crime was an encouraging development and augured well for its future universality. Poland agreed with the Secretary-General that that instrument should be accorded the highest priority, and welcomed the elaboration of the protocols to assist in its implementation. His Government urged the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of that convention to finalize its work, particularly with regard to the traffic in persons, especially women, children and migrants, and the illegal manufacture and trade of firearms.

49. Although every effort should be made to finalize that convention in 2000, for it to become an effective tool it must contain adequate provisions regarding cooperation among States. The definition of organized crime should specify its elements rather than employ examples of it, since new crimes might not be included among the examples. His Government believed that the matters of extradition, law enforcement, mutual legal assistance and the transfer of criminal proceedings could be successfully resolved in 2000, in time to meet the proposed deadline. Opening the convention for signature in the year of the millennium would demonstrate the determination of the international community to stop the spread of organized crime.

50. Poland had initiated the work of drafting the convention against transnational organized crime and had also organized the inter-sessional open-ended intergovernmental group of experts, which had provided new impetus to the elaboration of the convention. The Government was now eager to host a high-level conference in Warsaw for the signing of the convention and its protocols, an appropriate culmination of several years of intense efforts.

51. The fact that the drug situation in Poland had remained stable in recent years should not be cause for complacency. Actions undertaken by the Polish Government had had some encouraging, if limited, results. Poland had been implementing a crop substitution programme which replaced opium poppies with a type containing no morphine known as "Przemko". The domestic supply of poppy-straw extract had diminished, a significant development in view of the sizable group of HIV-positive drug abusers that had been intravenously injecting that drug. That programme had been funded by domestic sources.

52. For a number of years, the Polish police and customs authorities had been working with their counterparts in other European countries to stem the production of amphetamines

destined mostly for Germany and Scandinavia. In 1998, several clandestine amphetamine laboratories had been discovered and many kilograms of amphetamines seized. Unfortunately, amphetamines were becoming available on the domestic market, and addicts were using them instead of poppy-straw extracts. There were also signs that heroin and cocaine were circulating in Poland, a matter of serious concern. Not only must the flow of drugs to Poland be stemmed, but Polish territory must not be used as a supply route from Asia to Western Europe. Cocaine shipments, mainly from South America, had also been intercepted in Polish airports and seaports. Polish authorities were cooperating with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) the World Customs Organization and their counterparts in neighbouring countries.

53. Serious consideration must be given to the financing scheme of UNDCP. Voluntary contributions from Member States could not be expected to cover the costs of the new tasks that lay ahead, in particular the establishment of the Centre for International Crime Prevention at Vienna. Funds would have to be allocated from the regular budget. That was indeed a case in which the precarious financial situation had had a detrimental effect on the implementation of programmes. Poland wished to announce that, having contributed \$10,000 to the UNDCP fund, it was now a UNDCP donor country.

54. His Government, endorsing the views set out in the recent report of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB), had adopted and was implementing relevant new legislation. It commended INCB for supervising the manufacture and trade of legal narcotic and psychotropic substances, a useful tool in combating drug abuse. Close cooperation between national law-enforcement agencies and judicial institutions was undoubtedly essential; regional programmes in Central Europe also greatly assisted national institutions in combating drug trafficking. Finally, new UNDCP offices should use the capacities of host countries insofar as possible and cooperate with the host countries in any activities that they undertook.

55. **Mr. Al-Sudairy** (Saudi Arabia) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/186) and the clarifications provided by the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. His Government was highly appreciative of the work done by the Programme. Saudi Arabia shared the concern of the international community over the ever-increasing and extremely complex problem of drug trafficking. It was essential that every State should make an effort to combat the veritable plague constituted by such illegal trafficking.

Practical measures were necessary in order to strengthen implementation of the relevant international conventions.

56. His Government also shared the international community's concern over the issue of money laundering and the fact that it was made possible by poor financial supervision in certain countries. Increased control must be exerted over the movement of large sums of money when it was not clear where such sums originated. Intensified international criminal justice cooperation was necessary in order to face the threats posed to State security and stability by a number of problems, including drug trafficking and organized crime. Increased information sharing was also necessary to uncover such activities. The whole international community had equal responsibility for drug control, and the strengthening of regional cooperation would be of the greatest benefit in that regard. His Government was completely opposed to the legalization of certain, or indeed, any drugs.

57. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador) speaking on behalf of the Central American Group of countries — Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama — said that the Group was committed to furthering the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem because it recognized the linkage between production, trafficking and consumption as the main obstacle to eliminating the drug problem, while the principle of shared responsibility and a unified international approach were the main weapons against it.

58. The unified international approach was the determining factor for making faster progress at local, national, regional and hemispheric levels because it was helping establish a common institutional framework for focusing efforts and enhancing the distribution and utilization of the human and financial resources involved. Thus, the countries of the Group had signed a Central American convention against drug-related money laundering and a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters to complement their own national and other international efforts. Also, the Central American Security Commission was making noteworthy efforts to follow up the commitments involved in the regional integration process on combating the drug problem and related offences.

59. The Group supported the work of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP): the Programme promoted concerted international action against drug abuse and was supporting training for the personnel responsible for combating the drug problem in the countries of the Group. The forthcoming adoption of the Action Plan

for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction would open up a new area for discussion and cooperation by Member States, the United Nations specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations and would enable them to exchange points of view on the best ways to combat the drug problem and follow up the implementation of the Declaration itself.

60. International efforts, however, needed greater public support so that the public could join in the fight against drugs in all social institutions where values were formed, such as churches, schools and trade unions, and also within the relevant regional integration bodies so that the principle of shared responsibility could be brought to the most local, grass-roots level. The countries of the Group were committed to redoubling their efforts to combat the drug problem through their support for initiatives at all levels towards that end. The drug problem was on a much smaller scale in the countries of the Group than in other regions, but would nevertheless remain a high priority for their Governments.

61. **Mr. Aumentado (Philippines)** said that his delegation associated itself with the statement by the representative of Thailand speaking on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). His delegation looked forward to the early adoption of the draft convention and additional protocols against transnational crime, and would continue to work towards that end in the Ad Hoc Committee. However, to achieve the purposes of international instruments to combat smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings and firearms, the developing countries would need technical cooperation and advisory services.

62. The global programmes of the Centre for International Crime Prevention were crucial, and its proposed global studies on transnational crime would ensure that all countries would start on an equal footing and with a clear understanding of transnational crime as manifested in different countries and regions. Also, the planned corruption monitoring protocol would be useful in determining not only the incidence of corruption but also the effectiveness of countermeasures and would also make it possible to conduct a comparative analysis of those countermeasures.

63. He commended the Centre and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute on the global programme against trafficking in human beings and expressed the hope that more countries would participate in it: the sheer magnitude of the phenomenon in terms of transnational crime and human rights abuses demanded immediate, concerted action. The Government of the Philippines was giving its full support to the pilot project

which was being conducted in its territory through inter-agency cooperation in combating trafficking in human beings.

64. One of the challenges facing the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders would be to address crime prevention from a multi-sectoral, interdisciplinary perspective. In that task, it would be helped by the clear theoretical framework set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/289). The Philippine crime prevention strategy was to strengthen crime control in a concerted effort by all parts of the justice and enforcement system. It was headed by the National Police Commission, which was responsible for submitting an annual national crime prevention plan within the context of a five-year master plan for peace and order. The Commission was also involved in the various international conferences and forums on crime prevention and would organize the hosting by the Philippine Government of the fifth world conference of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (ACPF) in 2000.

65. The United Nations and interregional networking played a valuable part in improving the standards and norms underlying effective crime prevention and criminal justice. The National Police Commission had been particularly helped also by ACPF and the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI). The Philippines particularly welcomed the inclusion of the workshops on community involvement in crime prevention and women in the criminal justice system in the programme of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

66. Violence against women figured prominently in the Philippine crime prevention programme, and during the Ninth Congress his delegation had joined in sponsoring a resolution on the elimination of violence against women. In September 1995 the Government of the Philippines had adopted a 30-year plan for women, which formed the Philippine framework for implementing the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action, the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women. A law against sexual harassment had been passed in 1995, followed two years later by a law against rape whereby rape became no longer a crime against chastity but a public crime. That law also penalized rape within marriage. Philippine law enforcement agencies were strengthening efforts to protect women and children: special women's and children's "desks" had been set up in police stations nationwide and were staffed mainly by policewomen but also by policemen. Gender sensitivity training was given,

as was a short course on investigating cases involving women and children.

67. Filipino migrant women and children were particularly vulnerable to exploitation and discrimination. The Government was therefore taking severe measures against illegal recruitment in the Philippines. Illicit trafficking in human beings was becoming increasingly organized. The Government was also concerned by mail-order-bride schemes and the illegal adoption of Filipino children by foreigners and had enacted legislation against all those practices. Its various Departments and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration actively combated illegal recruitment. The Philippines had also initiated bilateral and regional cooperation mechanisms to protect its migrant workers.

68. He advocated the conclusion of bilateral, subregional, regional and multilateral agreements to combat trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, and also for forced marriages and forced labour. In that connection, all countries, and particularly receiving countries, should become parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families.

69. **Mr. Aboul Gheit** (Egypt) said that his delegation affirmed its support for the endeavours of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme. The international community recognized the ever-growing threat posed by organized crime, and the importance of increased international cooperation in order to combat that threat. Criminal justice was an important component in preventing crime. In view of the draft resolution introduced by the European Union, which called for the abolition of the death penalty, he wished to affirm that every State had the sovereign right to adopt a legal system that accorded with and upheld the values of its society and the security and safety of its citizens. His delegation regretted the reintroduction of that issue at a time when the lack of consensus on the matter was well known. He was sure that the European Union was as concerned as his own country was that consensus in the international community should be maintained. The draft resolution raised many questions as to the readiness of the European Union to understand and accept value systems which differed from its own, and he hoped that the matter would be reconsidered.

70. **Miss Durrant** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that drug trafficking was a global phenomenon that could be tackled successfully only through international cooperation. In that connection, the outcome of the twentieth special session of

the Assembly — and particularly the Political Declaration and the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction — formed the basis for a comprehensive multilateral framework to address the international drug problem.

71. The CARICOM countries found themselves between the centres of drug supply and the centres of drug demand, and therefore welcomed the balanced approach of mutually reinforcing demand and supply reduction advocated by the Secretary-General in his report (A/54/186). UNDCP had helped develop a comprehensive strategy and set of programmes for the CARICOM countries to reduce both drug supply and drug demand there. The Programme's assistance would continue to be needed if the goals set out in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles were to be met in the Caribbean.

72. UNDCP needed human and financial resources to continue its work, and its mandates and responsibilities had expanded in the follow-up to the twentieth special session. The CARICOM countries urged the international community to regard UNDCP as central to drug control worldwide and to ensure that it was given the necessary resources. According to the Executive Director of UNDCP, only 10 per cent of countries knew the true scale of their drug problem and therefore could not design the most effective countermeasures. UNDCP must therefore be able to share its epidemiological expertise with Governments and gather more accurate data on drug abuse. In that connection, the joint database established by UNDCP, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) should prove helpful to law enforcement officers worldwide.

73. The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction provided a comprehensive approach to demand reduction, reflected the commitments made at the twentieth special session and fostered linkages with other areas such as health, education, housing, law enforcement and crime prevention. The CARICOM countries supported that approach, believing that drug trafficking could not be tackled in isolation.

74. Another set of linkages involved drugs, drug-associated crime, the traffic in small arms and ammunition, money laundering and corruption, all of which remained serious challenges to the fragile societies of the Caribbean. The CARICOM countries urged countries involved in the production and export of small arms to monitor such exports carefully to reduce the incidence of gun smuggling. CARICOM was dismayed to be facing sophisticated

computer and arms crimes and believed that a multilateral approach to combating transnational organized crime was needed.

75. Significant numbers of programmes and projects had been generated under the 1996 Barbados Plan of Action in the areas of prevention, treatment, demand reduction, maritime cooperation and law enforcement, with particular emphasis on money laundering and other drug-related criminal activities. Under the Plan, assistance was also provided to States in implementing drug control treaties. She thanked UNDCP, European Union donor countries and the European Commission for their technical and financial support for those programmes.

76. Drug-related crimes raised major security concerns in a vulnerable area such as the Caribbean. CARICOM had therefore sought to implement regional drug control enforcement programmes by setting up, in December 1996, an intergovernmental task force on drugs. In April 1999, a joint meeting had been held of the task force and Ministers responsible for national security to review the region's drug programmes. The meeting had highlighted regional cooperation on supply reduction. It had also looked at new programmes, under the Barbados Plan, on women and drugs, legal and institutional reform of the penitentiary system, regional drug control communications and advocacy, and national drug control councils and strategies.

77. She highlighted cooperation between CARICOM and the United States of America in combating drugs under a plan of action on justice and security matters signed in Barbados in 1997. The joint committee set up under the arrangement had met in September 1999 in Washington and had called for demand and supply reduction strategies to be formalized. Nevertheless, it had recognized that significant progress had been made in cooperation in law enforcement, combating money laundering, mutual legal assistance and extradition, justice protection, and strengthening criminal justice systems and security forces.

78. The CARICOM countries were committed to ensuring that they were not overrun by drug trafficking and its related social ills and would continue to combat it through a holistic, multifaceted approach to the socio-economic challenges creating both drug demand and drug supply. That approach required cooperation with and between Governments and regional and multilateral organizations.

79. Mr. Onovo (Nigeria) said that illicit drugs were a global menace that cut across all boundaries and affected developed and developing countries alike. Combating it therefore required concerted, global and non-partisan action. One constraint on combating the traffic in drugs was a lack

of information, even though most countries were willing to work together. Countries with information should be enabled to share it; information on previously unknown trends in drug production, distribution and consumption practices was particularly useful, as was information about new ways to launder money.

80. Nigeria was helping to support and enhance the exchange of information through the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Drug Fund, and its own National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, now 10 years old, had proved effective in combating the drug menace: it had established far-reaching drug demand and supply reduction strategies and also administrative and technical measures to curb the activities of drug criminals along their local and international routes.

81. In addition to sophisticated screening devices, strategies included publishing photographs and names of offenders as a deterrent, public awareness campaigns, drug abuse education, and guidance and counselling. UNDCP had been an active ally in formulating and implementing the Nigerian National Drug Control Master Plan and had helped sponsor a rapid situation assessment project on which to base appropriate drug control strategies. Further assistance would be welcome, and he commended the European Union and the United States of America for their interest.

82. The National Drug Law Enforcement Agency had succeeded in its 10 years of existence in seizing hundreds of tons of drugs and convicting almost 5,000 suspects. The success rate was high enough to keep the traffickers off balance and make them avoid Nigeria's ports. Nigeria, recognizing the global nature of the drug problem, had signed memoranda of understanding with other countries, particularly consumer nations, on exchanging information and other necessary measures. The Drug Law Enforcement Agency had uncovered various bizarre ways of concealing drugs, detected complex trafficking routes, and also developed countermeasures. All that information could be shared with countries that might be affected.

83. Transnational organized crime was another serious threat to the international community, endangering the economies and the security of States with money laundering, financial fraud, trafficking in small arms, bribery, smuggling of migrants and so on. General Assembly resolution 53/111 on the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime was a step in the right direction. Judging by the large number of States attending the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee established for that purpose, there was broad support for such a convention.

84. As a sign of its commitment to the international community in the field of crime prevention and fraud eradication, in March 1999 Nigeria had hosted a second West African meeting on fraud. Also, the current, democratic Government planned to host, in the not-too-distant future, an international conference against corruption and fraud. The Government had also enacted effective legislation against money laundering and an anti-corruption Bill had been submitted to the National Assembly. It was hoped that the Bill would become an Act that would set up a robust institutional framework against corruption and act as a catalyst in establishing a conducive climate for investment in Nigeria.

85. Trafficking in human beings, another transnational crime, had become a concern in Nigeria, and the Government was exploring ways to eliminate illegal migration, particularly of women and children. Indeed, Nigerian law enforcement officers had broken up many of the crime syndicates involved. Strengthening Africa's crime prevention and criminal justice systems would require a great deal of resources; however, the financial situation of the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFRI) remained bleak and was affecting the services that it could deliver to members. He called on all UNAFRI members, indeed any non-members, that wished to help the Institute and, by extension, Africa, to make the necessary contributions. Lastly, a global effort was needed to enhance the capacity of all United Nations bodies and affiliates to combat drugs and crime and free Member countries of their adverse effects.

86. **Mr. Al-Humaimidi** (Iraq) said that his country had expressed its willingness to cooperate with the international agencies responsible for drug control and had become a party to the relevant international conventions, incorporating their provisions into its national legislation. The strenuous efforts that it had made to control drugs meant that Iraq was currently one of the few countries in the world where drugs were neither produced nor trafficked. However, in the northern region, which was not currently subject to central government authority, there had been some infractions of the law: cocaine was produced in some areas and the situation prevailing in the north was conducive to drug smuggling.

87. The comprehensive economic sanctions imposed on Iraq for more than nine years had seriously damaged the country's drug control programme. Being deprived of its financial resources, Iraq was unable to participate in international or regional conferences or to keep abreast of new developments in the field. It was also unable to acquire sophisticated technical equipment, employ the services of

international technical experts, or profit from training programmes outside the country. Nevertheless, Iraq would continue to cooperate with the international community with a view to achieving the laudable goal of completely suppressing the abuse of and illicit trafficking in drugs.

The meeting rose at 6.10 p.m.

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Chairman: Mr. Galuška (Czech Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/54/3, A/54/69-E/1999/8 and Add.1, A/54/289 and A/54/340; A/C.3/54/2; A/C.3/54/L.3-L.6)

Agenda item 108: International drug control (*continued*) (A/54/3, A/54/186, A/54/293-E/1999/119 and A/54/314-S/1999/942; A/C.3/54/L.7)

1. **Ms. Holikova** (Czech Republic) said that the increasing seriousness of the abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances was a challenge to societies and their economies. Globalization created the conditions for transnational organized crime because of the erosion of traditional ties and values. While primary responsibility for combating drug abuse lay with individual Governments, their action required the support of more effective international cooperation, including technical assistance to affected countries. It was encouraging that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and other United Nations bodies and agencies were actively participating in combating drug abuse, but it was necessary to give more attention to the coordination of their work and to improve information exchanges in order to avoid duplication. The world community had agreed on a medium-term strategy included in the Political Declaration adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, together with plans of action and the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. Unfortunately, the small number of countries that had ratified, and above all implemented, the fundamental international drug control instruments compromised the attainment of the intended objectives.

2. Her country had taken important steps to adapt its legal system to international norms. An amendment to the Penal Code criminalized the possession of small quantities of drugs exceeding the amount for personal use only. A new law tightening the regime for precursors and essential chemicals had been adopted and a bill on probation and mediation services was to be discussed. A system of special training for prosecutors, judges and probation officers dealing with drug issues had been introduced. The status of police forces had been extended to the customs authorities, a step which had had practical results in operations against drug trafficking, both in the national territory and in the context of international cooperation.

3. Her country intended to strengthen its cooperation with the other four member countries of the Central European Cooperation Programme because of recent developments in the situation in the Balkans where the so-called Kosovo Albanian mafia controlled the heroin market. UNDCP and the other European law enforcement structures should give the situation their attention.

4. As a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, her country was convinced that the Commission should actively contribute to the implementation of all the anti-drug strategies. Once it had been completed, the draft convention against transnational organized crime would become an important tool for strengthening cooperation between countries in combating organized crime, which was not restricted to drug trafficking. However it appeared from the ongoing discussions on the draft convention that its provisions would not go beyond the framework of the 1988 Convention, thus enabling criminal organizations to take advantage of the loopholes in national legislation.

5. **Mr. Sychoy** (Belarus), speaking on agenda item 107 on behalf of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan, said that the international community should combine its efforts to draw up a single strategy to combat the expansion of crime throughout the world. The countries on whose behalf he was speaking therefore supported the proposals for financial and other strengthening of the crime prevention and criminal justice programme of the United Nations and all the Secretariat bodies engaged in combating crime. They were ready to cooperate with the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, from which they would like to receive aid in the form of expert services, advisory services and technical assistance. They also welcomed the outcome of the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and were gratified that preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and the Treatment of Offenders were proceeding well. Finally, they noted with satisfaction that work was continuing on the convention against transnational organized crime and its protocols, and supported the idea of organizing a conference of plenipotentiaries to adopt those texts in 2000.

6. At the regional and subregional levels, the efforts made by the Council of Europe, the Council of Baltic Sea States and other organizations were to be welcomed. In May 1996, the member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) had adopted an intergovernmental programme of joint measures to combat organized crime in the CIS countries up to the year 2000. They were currently working on a similar project to run

until 2003. The question of combating crime had been considered in September 1999 at Bishkek at the first session of the Intergovernmental Commission of the Central Asian Economic Community. The CIS council of heads of security organs and special services and the CIS council of heads of customs services were coordinating the action undertaken.

7. The revision of the convention on legal aid and legal relations in civil, family and criminal proceedings of 22 January 1993 remained on the agenda. The CIS countries were currently working on a draft cooperation agreement to combat computer crime and on a draft cooperation plan between the bodies responsible for implementation of the laws in the CIS member countries. Those bodies were already cooperating on the training of staff, operational or prevention measures and the exchange of information (the "Avtopoisk" system in the context of the intergovernmental data bank).

8. **Mr. Hadjiagrou** (Cyprus) said that the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the Centre for International Crime Prevention had done valuable work in helping developing countries and countries with economies in transition to combat organized crime, trafficking in human beings, and corruption. They were to be commended for mainstreaming a gender perspective in their strategies. The elaboration of an international legal instrument was indispensable for responding to the increasingly sophisticated operations of criminal organizations. His delegation therefore welcomed the progress achieved at the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice towards the formulation of a convention against transnational organized crime. His country had ratified all United Nations conventions aimed at increasing cooperation in criminal justice matters and was cooperating closely with the European Union as an associated State. Cyprus had also concluded bilateral agreements with a number of other countries on combating transnational crime and drug trafficking. Well aware that the country, which had evolved into an important offshore financial centre, might readily be used by transnational organized crime for money-laundering purposes, his Government had taken steps, chief of which was the passage in 1996 of a draconian law on the prevention and suppression of money-laundering.

9. Drug abuse constituted a grave threat to civilized societies, and no nation had remained immune to its devastating effects. Implementation of the relevant international instruments and enhancement of national and international capacity were essential to attaining the goal

of a drug-free world. However, one must also address the root causes of the problem, chiefly poverty and socio-economic imbalances. To reduce consumption and production of drugs, both crop substitution programmes and programmes of social rehabilitation for drug addicts were needed. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly had been a decisive step in mobilizing the international community to confront the threat that drugs posed to society.

10. Although it was still relatively drug-free, Cyprus had put in place a proactive national policy of prevention. Recognizing that as an important transshipment point in the eastern Mediterranean Cyprus could well be used to funnel drugs into Europe, the Government was actively pursuing a policy of strict customs controls in cooperation with other countries. However, it could not exercise control in the areas of the Republic of Cyprus under Turkish military occupation, where, according to information received, money-laundering operations and drug trafficking were rife. His delegation wished to urge the necessity of mobilizing resources on a global level and establishing effective justice systems based on human rights and partnership between States and international organizations in order to combat crime and preserve the rule of law.

11. **Mr. Amorós Nuñez** (Cuba), speaking on agenda item 107, said that globalization, which brought in its train interdependence and a widening gap between rich and poor countries, had facilitated the spread of transnational criminal organizations. They had taken advantage of the progress in information technology, the unprecedented increase in trade and the deregulation of financial transactions to expand their illegal operations. Cooperation must be intensified to address the problem, particularly within the framework of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, which offered the opportunity to exchange information and experience with regard to criminal investigation and in the area of criminal law and policy. The Tenth Congress, which was to take place in Vienna in April 2000 and was to focus on the theme of transnational organized crime, should result in the adoption of a political declaration that would reflect the results of the regional preparatory meetings, as called for in General Assembly resolution 53/110. The elaboration of a United Nations convention against transnational organized crime and three protocols thereto were directly related to that work. While unreservedly supporting the process, his delegation felt that the need to finish the work rapidly should not be allowed to diminish the quality of the text.

12. One could not speak of preventing and combating crime or of international cooperation in that area without stressing the primary role of national laws, which were ultimately what enabled each country to confront crime occurring within its borders, whether or not it had an international dimension. Respect for the national laws of each country was the necessary basis for success in multilateral and bilateral cooperation. Each Government must take the initiative to exchange information, coordinate its operations with those of other Governments and collaborate with them in combating crimes committed on its own territory, especially when those crimes might have international repercussions. On the other hand, his delegation condemned unilateral action against international crime, which only made the search for solutions to that complex problem more difficult.

13. **Ms. Otiti** (Uganda) said that, in trying to find ways to treat offenders to prepare them to re-enter society, one should guard against excessive indulgence, which they might exploit to regain their liberty and commit fresh crimes. There should be highly organized machinery prepared to deal with crime at all times. Her delegation wished to commend the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its efforts and was pleased to note that the Centre for International Crime Prevention would be directing more of its activities towards assisting developing countries, countries with economies in transition and countries taking a subregional approach. It welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (A/54/340) and was grateful to the donors who had enabled the Institute to conduct its activities, despite limited resources; it was to be hoped that greater efforts would be made to help the Institute to fulfil its mandate. Her Government had taken steps to address the problem of rising crime. A judicial commission of inquiry into police corruption was currently conducting a country-wide investigation in order to ensure that the forces of order did not themselves turn to crime.

14. Violence against women was considered an offence. The Constitution of Uganda recognized the unique role women played in society and, in respect for their traditional maternal functions, required the State to protect them and their rights and prohibited acts against their interest, welfare and dignity. A coalition on violence against women had been set up, and a shelter for battered women had been established. A Ministry of Ethics and Integrity, headed by a woman minister, had been created to study the problem of crime and find solutions so that Ugandans could safely enjoy their rights.

15. **Mr. Mra** (Myanmar), speaking on agenda item 108, said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Thailand on behalf of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN). Only with an effective global strategy and concerted international efforts could the world deal with the drug menace. It was encouraging that the international community had, at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, reaffirmed its determination to meet the challenge.

16. His Government had made it the nation's top priority to combat the problem of narcotic drugs. In the past, when it had had little control in the border areas where the poppy was grown, its strategy had focused on law enforcement. Since the problem was a complex one, however, the Government had launched a multibillion kyat project to eliminate poppy cultivation by promoting the living standards of the national races and bringing alternative development by providing extensive new infrastructure and introducing substitute crops. It had drawn up a 15-year master plan, in cooperation with ethnic leaders who had signed peace agreements with the Government, to eliminate poppy cultivation by 2014, eradicate opium production and encourage local participation in such activities. The plan, which was being implemented in 51 townships throughout the country, had already achieved positive results.

17. Despite some successes in combating drugs, such as bringing opium production down to its lowest level for 10 years and seizing large quantities of heroin, opium and amphetamines, Myanmar and the whole region were faced with the new menace of the illicit manufacture, traffic and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. The new drugs, which spread quickly among young people, were produced, using precursors and drug-making equipment smuggled in from neighbouring countries, along the porous borders of Myanmar. The Government was currently redirecting its efforts to address the problem as a matter of priority in cooperation with the countries concerned in the region.

18. Money laundering was also a matter of concern for the Government, as it could undermine the country's financial and monetary system. In 1995 rules providing for effective measures against money-laundering activities had been introduced. The rules also empowered a committee to carry out financial investigations and seize property in any suspected cases of money laundering. In addition, the rules provided for bilateral and trilateral cooperation in transboundary situations of money laundering. Another committee had since 1993 worked on scrutinizing all kinds

of property and confiscating any that had been gained through drug-related crime.

19. Myanmar had signed several regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation agreements, with the focus on reducing drug trafficking and production, eliminating poppy cultivation through economic and social development programmes and reducing the demand for and consumption of drugs. In addition, since 1993 it had conducted many region-wide opium yield surveys in cooperation with the United States of America.

20. His Government, which was absolutely committed to the total eradication of narcotic drugs, would continue the implementation of its 15-year plan and would cooperate with other ASEAN members. International assistance would nonetheless be most useful.

21. **Mr. Joedo** (Indonesia) said that his delegation also wished to associate itself with the statement made by the representative of Thailand on behalf of ASEAN. His delegation supported the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, particularly the adoption of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction and the target of getting new and enhanced strategies in place by 2003, with measurable results by 2008. The Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration offered comprehensive guidance and should receive the full attention of Member States.

22. Under the Action Plan, requesting countries could receive technical assistance from the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and other relevant organizations for the establishment of national systems for monitoring, setting up databases and sharing information. The epidemiological infrastructure that the Programme was to establish should also help demand-reduction programmes assess the situation more accurately and would be useful for States reporting to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

23. His delegation drew attention to the budgetary implications of the decision at the special session to expand the Programme's mandate. The imbalance between contributions to special-purpose funds and those to general-purpose funds was disquieting, since it limited the room for manoeuvre available to the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to implement the Programme's programme of activities. The Economic and Social Council had made a useful recommendation in that regard in its resolution 1999/30.

24. The Political Declaration adopted at the special session had set goals and target dates regarding the illicit

manufacture, traffic and abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors, the growth rate of which had reached alarming levels. The subject should therefore be given higher priority, as should the issue of psychotropic substances, including synthetic drugs. His delegation therefore welcomed the initiatives taken to assist Governments in dealing with the problem.

25. Indonesia had become not only a transit country but also a country with a drug abuse problem of its own, which the recent economic and social crisis had undoubtedly exacerbated. The Government had therefore established a national Narcotics Coordinating Agency, which would ensure coordination between the many bodies that were required to implement policy at national and local levels. The Government was also undertaking an information campaign against drugs, as well as enhancing the legislative framework. The Government had become a party to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988 and encouraged all Member States to accede to it.

26. His Government also fully supported the work of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme and welcomed its provision of technical assistance to developing countries. It took note of the outcome of the eighth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and welcomed the preparations being made in advance of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. With regard to the elaboration of a convention against transnational organized crime, his delegation considered that the "one plus three" formula, used in finalizing the draft, should not mean that the three need be ratified together.

27. With regard to the death penalty, his delegation believed that it was the responsibility of each country to choose for itself, and its choice should be respected.

28. **Mr. von Kaufman** (Canada), speaking also on behalf of Australia and New Zealand, said that the three countries remained deeply concerned about the impact of the abuse of and trafficking in illicit drugs on their citizens and societies, as well as on the political stability of source countries and some transit countries, which were affected by increasing violence and trafficking in firearms. They were also concerned about the rise in drug use in countries where it had not been prevalent in the past, and especially among young people.

29. Committed to dealing with the drug problem within their borders through balanced and effective national strategies, Australia, New Zealand and Canada were

cooperating through regional and multilateral organizations. The United Nations played a vital role in that regard through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the United Nations International Drug Control Programme and the International Narcotics Control Board. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly had resulted in an unprecedented political commitment that had to be maintained and translated into action. They welcomed the progress made by the inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the guidelines for submitting national reports, which would help gauge the progress made by countries and the international community in fulfilling the commitments made at the special session. They also welcomed the progress made on the questionnaire for implementing the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction.

30. Turning to item 107, he said that, in an increasingly open world, criminal justice and crime prevention were matters requiring international action, rather than simply national policy, and called for multilateral agreement and operation. The convention against transnational organized crime and its three protocols would be a powerful tool for law-enforcement agencies and would enhance the efforts to develop an international legal regime to counter organized crime. The three countries would do their best to contribute to the work of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which would address key challenges such as transnational organized crime, computer crime and corruption.

31. The three countries were pleased to note that the international community was gaining greater understanding of the economic and social costs of corruption, was more willing to discuss it, and had more interest in transparency and the development of international instruments to combat corruption. They welcomed the work of the Centre for International Crime Prevention.

32. **Mr. Medrek** (Morocco) said that, in view of the rapid increase in crime around the world, the international community had to make greater efforts, develop a common and global prevention strategy based on true cooperation, with the emphasis on training, information and the sharing of data, experience and technology. It should also finalize new international instruments to curb crime. Morocco therefore supported the setting up of the ad hoc committee to elaborate a convention against transnational organized crime, and looked forward to the meeting in Vienna in April 2000 of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the

Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders on the topic "Crime and justice: meeting the challenges of the twenty-first century".

33. Drug trafficking generated such enormous profits that it constituted 8 per cent of world trade, as shown by the annual report of UNDCP for 1997. To combat that phenomenon, in 1998 many countries had announced the launching of programmes and campaigns to eradicate cannabis, cocaine and poppy-straw cultivation; they had also destroyed thousands of hectares of illicit cultivation and dismantled a very large number of laboratories.

34. Morocco had begun a national strategy against drugs by setting up the National Drug Commission in 1977 and by beginning a reform of its legislation in 1996. It had also devised an integrated economic and social programme to develop the provinces in the north of the country; implementation was entrusted to the Agency for Economic and Social Advancement and Development, which reported directly to the Prime Minister. It had also created an anti-drug co-ordination unit in 1996. Furthermore, it had set up a well-equipped security unit on the Mediterranean coast. The reward of those efforts had been the seizure in July 1997 of six tons of pure cocaine. That whole action plan was a significant financial burden for Morocco, equivalent to 5 per cent of total investments provided for in the State budget.

35. For a number of years, Morocco had been strengthening bilateral cooperation through agreements concluded with various States, including Germany, Hungary, Poland, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as co-bilateral cooperation with international organizations, such as UNDCP, which had sent a mission to Morocco in April 1999.

36. **Mrs. Brobbey** (Ghana) said that her country had welcomed the Political Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly as the international community's strategy to reduce illegal drug trafficking, abuse and production by the year 2000. It was also hoped that the ad hoc committee which was elaborating a convention against transnational organized crime would complete its work on schedule so that the convention could be adopted by the end of 2000, although it was clear that only a concerted effort by Member States to implement the provisions would curb the activities of criminal organizations. Ghana welcomed the progress made in drafting the protocols to the convention against transnational organized crime, and especially the protocol against illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in

firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, as those activities had undermined the security of West and Central Africa, a situation that had led the States members of the Economic Community of West African States to adopt a moratorium, endorsed by the Organization of African Unity, on the import, export and manufacture of light weapons.

37. Concerned at the uncertain situation of the Centre for International Crime Prevention, her delegation believed that that body should be provided with adequate resources to provide Member States with the technical assistance needed to ensure the rule of law and juvenile justice, and to elaborate model legislation on mutual assistance in criminal matters. Her delegation was pleased to note the new orientation of the Centre's programmes, as indicated in section VI of the Secretary-General's report (A/54/289). She also welcomed the initiatives taken to strengthen the management of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. Lastly, she thanked the Austrian Government for offering to host, in April 2000, the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, and urged that it should be a meeting at the highest political level.

38. While her delegation believed that, in view of the extent of the problem, the fight against drugs should be a shared responsibility of all Member States, it pointed out that the ever-increasing demand for drugs in a number of developed countries required a disproportionate effort from developing countries in relation to their resources. For that reason, her delegation urged all Member States to commit themselves to implementing the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, and called on those that had not yet done so to ratify or accede to the three conventions on international drug control in order that the objectives for 2003 and 2008 might be attained.

39. At the subregional level, her Government was cooperating with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in the context of the protocols on mutual assistance on crime. At the national level, in 1990 it had enacted the Narcotic Control and Enforcement Law and established the Narcotic Control Board, which organized campaigns, particularly in primary and secondary schools, to educate people with the help of the media. In addition, her Government had criminalized money-laundering and decreed that all proceeds from drugs were liable to seizure. The treatment and rehabilitation programmes put in place by her Government had not been as successful as it might have wished, largely because of

inadequate resources. In that connection, her delegation believed that drug-dependent individuals should not be treated as psychiatric patients, and that rehabilitation centres established by Governments should be separate from psychiatric hospitals.

40. The drug issue was further complicated by poverty, as it was difficult for the world's poor not to turn to lucrative illicit crops. It was therefore crucial to introduce alternative crops and to strengthen international efforts to implement anti-poverty strategies. At the national level, Governments should propose rural credit schemes for farmers that would cushion them against crop failures due to various causes, and should intensify efforts to address rural-urban migration, while launching programmes to generate urban employment.

41. In conclusion, the Ghanaian delegation commended the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders for its efforts to promote and coordinate regional technical cooperation activities; the Institute's capacity should be strengthened to enable it to support national anti-crime policies. Her delegation therefore called on Member States to honour their financial obligations to the Institute.

42. **Mr. Ubalijoro** (Rwanda), speaking under agenda item 107, said that better enforcement of international criminal law was imperative if justice was to be ensured throughout the world. Just as social control at the national level required that law-abiding citizens should be protected from law violators through prosecution and punishment of the latter, adequate law enforcement mechanisms must be developed internationally. The comprehensive nature and gravity of the crimes covered by international criminal law only underscored the importance of the process. The consequences of the crime of genocide, for example, were clearly more ominous than those of any single violation of domestic law.

43. Even though genocide was prohibited by international criminal law, genocidal acts continued to be committed throughout the world, under the passive gaze of the international community. By refusing to take effective action, the international community had made a mockery of the most sacred values of civilization. Unless it protected the fundamental rights of the human person by enforcing international criminal law, crime prevention and criminal justice would remain a dead letter.

44. Rwanda was now faced with the enormous task of bringing to justice the over 125,000 persons suspected of participating in the 1994 genocide. In 1995 and 1996, it had adopted the relevant legislation, despite the lack of

resources and trained personnel and a highly volatile political environment. The legislation classified suspects into four categories according to their alleged degree of culpability; the first category included leaders and organizers of the genocide and perpetrators of particularly heinous murders or sexual torture, the second, persons accused of homicide, the third, perpetrators of grave assaults not resulting in death, and the fourth, perpetrators of property crimes. In order to expedite the trials, his Government had also revived a traditional system known as "gacaca", which enabled community councils to mete out symbolic justice without shedding blood. That system, which had been used to adjudicate petty theft and small property disputes, would soon be employed to prosecute individuals in categories 2, 3 and 4. Prisoners would be tried in public by local judges on the basis of their testimony and that of the villagers, and would then be either released or punished.

45. The goal of the Rwandan criminal justice system was to protect the right to life, liberty and property, and to deter crime effectively. By that logic, the death penalty made perfect sense. It made the criminal pay for his crime, eliminated recidivism and deterred others from committing the same crime. The execution in April 1998 of 22 genocide masterminds had led many prisoners — who had been encouraged by certain international non-governmental organizations which, for various reasons, cared more about the fate of the condemned murderers than about their victims — to drop their insistence that genocide had never occurred in Rwanda and to resort to plea bargaining with the prosecutors, so long as they did not fall into category 1. It was to be hoped that, by keeping the judicial process on track, the cycle of impunity that had long benefited criminals in his country could be broken.

46. **Ms. Gligorova** (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) said that narcotics production, trafficking and abuse was continually increasing, undermining the economic and social foundations and the political stability, security and sovereignty of countries, endangering the health of populations, especially that of young people, and demanding national and international measures and strategies to address these problems.

47. Her country was facing problems similar to those of other countries, while also having to grapple with the specific difficulties encountered by all the countries of southeastern Europe. Its efforts to build a democratic civil society and a market economy and ensure respect for human rights and freedoms and the rule of law had profoundly changed its economic, political and social structure. The regional political and economic crisis,

particularly in Kosovo, had also facilitated the expansion of criminal networks within its territory and that of neighbouring countries, worsening the drug problem and contributing to the spread of HIV/AIDS.

48. Her Government, deeply concerned by the existing links between illicit drug production and trafficking and the illegal arms trade, had established a new commission to fight drug abuse, and planned to promulgate laws on corruption, drug abuse, money-laundering and drug precursors. Aware that law enforcement was not the only issue, it was also carrying out prevention, education and social welfare programmes, focusing specifically on children, and was endeavouring to facilitate the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users in accordance with General Assembly resolutions. Furthermore, poppy production and processing was strictly controlled. Nevertheless, her Government still had to complete the master plan of activities, finish adopting the proposed legislation, create a mechanism for the control of precursors and of money-laundering, establish educational programmes and launch public information campaigns to prevent drug abuse and reduce demand.

49. Her country, which had also acceded to various international conventions concerning the drug problem, intended to base its legal framework on existing international norms. It was actively cooperating with the international community in its efforts to counter the drug problem.

50. Since the drug problem knew no borders, regional, subregional and international cooperation needed to be strengthened. During the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, Member States had committed themselves to acting together to combat the root causes of the drug problem, namely, poverty, unemployment and inequality. Her delegation had taken a number of measures to implement the outcome of the special session. As a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the period 2000-2004, it was determined to participate in the efforts of the United Nations system, especially UNDCP, to strengthen cooperation among Balkan countries and the countries of south-eastern Europe.

51. Her Government supported the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of an International Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in drafting the Convention and its three protocols. Transnational crime was one of the greatest challenges of the late twentieth century, and it was to be hoped that the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime

and the Treatment of Offenders would emphasize the crucial role of the United Nations in that area.

52. **Mr. Issa** (Lebanon), speaking on agenda item 108, said that the difficult economic conditions in his country had forced some farmers to take up the cultivation of narcotic crops again. The Government had reacted by imposing severe penalties against the cultivation of such crops, thereby anticipating the measures advocated by UNDCP and the provisions of resolution S-20/4. Since 1996, his country had been using its own resources to try to implement the goals set by the Programme, as the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention had been able to verify for himself during his visit to Lebanon. However, a training programme was required to persuade farmers in Lebanon to grow other crops, and appropriate facilities for the treatment of drug addicts were needed. UNDCP should increase its assistance to Lebanon and should not make such assistance dependent on funds provided by donors, since the latter could tie their aid to conditions that the recipient countries might be unable to meet. During the summer of 1998, his Government had promulgated a new law against the cultivation of narcotic crops and drug trafficking. It ensured that no money-laundering, which went hand in hand with the drug problem, was effected through Lebanese banks, despite the rules of confidentiality which constituted one of the pillars of its liberal economy.

53. **Mr. Pozzo** (Venezuela) said that his delegation associated itself with the statement made by the representative of Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group on agenda item 108.

54. The policies and programmes adopted by States reflected the importance that they accorded to drug control. His delegation agreed with the Secretary-General that the decision of the Administrative Committee on Coordination to consider monitoring the implementation of the follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly would result in better coordination of international action and the strengthening of the drug control mechanisms of the United Nations system.

55. The action plan to be adopted by the General Assembly was based on the fact that demand reduction was an indispensable pillar in the fight against drugs. It would support the world strategy which advocated the adoption of mutually reinforcing measures to control supply and reduce demand. His Government, whose policies focused mainly on prevention, treatment and the rehabilitation of drug addicts, attached particular importance to the adoption of the action plan. Under the authority of the

national committee on the use of illicit drugs, the relevant national institutions had focused their activities on human resource development, scientific research, periodic evaluation and the provision of services to the most vulnerable sectors of society, including young people. The substantial financial efforts made by the private and public sectors were supplemented by bilateral contributions from Colombia, Ecuador and the United States of America and multilateral contributions from the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme and the Organization of American States.

56. His delegation supported the activities carried out by UNDCP with respect to alternative crops in a number of countries, including in the Andean region. Although the raw material necessary to the manufacture of illicit drugs was not produced in Venezuela, the few cannabis and other crops that had been discovered in the west of the country had been destroyed.

57. As far as verification was concerned, the international community should support the UNDCP initiative on the establishment of an independent, neutral and objective global monitoring system to enable States to measure the extent of illicit cultivation on their territory and to take the appropriate measure. The exchange of information and the mobilization of the necessary logistical and financial resources were essential for national capacity-building. His Government was striving to improve institutional and intersectoral coordination.

58. In 1997 his Government had set up an intersectoral committee on the prevention and control of money-laundering, which was composed of representatives of various ministries, the banking and stock market sectors, the Central Bank, the judiciary and the police force. In 1998 it had also adopted provisions on the import, export and marketing of precursors nationwide.

59. While the military authorities and police had improved their methods and capabilities for combating drug trafficking by acquiring greater logistical, financial and human resources, international cooperation still remained essential, since it enabled the States concerned to exchange reliable information and advanced technologies.

60. His delegation also welcomed the initiative mentioned by the Executive Director of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention to prevent the smuggling of drugs from a particular country by mobilizing neighbouring countries. Drugs were a worldwide problem which must be addressed in a comprehensive and balanced manner, on the basis of shared responsibilities and full

respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and the principle of non-interference in their internal affairs.

61. His Government accorded considerable importance to the growing number of multilateral evaluation mechanisms at the regional and international levels. The Latin American countries were currently setting up a mechanism which would enable them to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of national strategies and policies. He hoped that a similar process planned by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs would lead to concrete results in the near future.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 3 10 p.m.

Agenda item 106: Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family
(continued) (A/C.3/54/L.11)

1. **Ms. Otgontsetseg** (Mongolia), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.11 on cooperatives in social development, said that Greece, Guinea, Italy, Kyrgyzstan and Thailand had joined the sponsors. In the fourth preambular paragraph and paragraph 4, the phrase "and their plus-five-review special sessions" should be amended to read "including their plus-five reviews"; in paragraph 4 (b), the words "establishment and" should be inserted before "development"; in paragraph 5, the word "local," should be inserted before the word "national".

2. Cooperatives could make a valuable contribution to the achievement of social and economic development goals. In many countries they were economically significant and, whether as production units or service providers, boosted employment. Social service cooperatives afforded a means of responding to the special needs of groups such as young children and the elderly. The justification for the draft resolution lay in those and other benefits of cooperatives and in the fact that, as the Secretary-General's report in document A/54/57 showed, many countries were updating their legislation on cooperatives, making the adoption of guidelines on supporting such entities particularly timely.

Agenda item 109: Advancement of women (continued)
(A/C.3/54/L.14 and L.16)

3. **Ms. Aguiar** (Dominican Republic), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.14 on an international day for the elimination of violence against women, said that France had joined the sponsors. Thanks to determined efforts, significant progress had been made in promoting women's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights throughout the world. Landmarks in that process included the Vienna and Beijing Conferences, the adoption of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and the Ouagadougou Declaration and the proclamation in Latin America and the Caribbean of 25 November as International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

4. Much, however, remained to be done. In many places, laws and practices still limited women's access to work, and it was common for women and girls to have only restricted access to higher education or certain fields of study. There

was also widespread *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination against women with regard to marriage, the family, divorce, reproduction, nationality, and the management and inheritance of property. To that must be added the phenomenon of the feminization of poverty and the still worse scourge, which affected both developed and developing countries, of violence against women.

5. UNIFEM figures showed that worldwide at least 20 per cent of women had been physically or sexually assaulted by a man and that every year 2 million girls aged between 5 and 15 fell victims to traffickers, were sold or were forced into prostitution. Violence against women respected neither national nor social boundaries: it was present in rich and poor countries and in and outside the home. Domestic violence was particularly loathsome, a denial of the qualities and principles that set human beings apart from the animals. Violence against women was an obstacle to the fuller development of the human personality and overcoming it required the combined efforts of men and women.

6. The date of 25 November had first been declared International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in June 1981, at the first Feminist Encounter for Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Bogota. The declaration had been to commemorate the three Mirabal sisters, who had been brutally murdered in their own country on 25 November 1960 on the orders of a despot whose very existence history should forget. Her delegation and the co-sponsors hoped that the international community as a whole would now adopt that date as an annual reminder that the world would not be a better place until women could hold up their heads in the full enjoyment of human dignity.

7. **Mr. Al-Saidi** (Kuwait) said that Kuwait had become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

8. **Ms. Biayan** (Romania), introducing draft resolution A/C.3/54/L.16 on the United Nations Development Fund for Women, said that Croatia, Nicaragua, and Suriname had joined the sponsors. The activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in the field of women's empowerment and gender equality were comprehensively described in the Secretary-General's note A/54/225 and had been reviewed in detail in the statement by the Executive Director of UNIFEM to the Committee. The draft resolution, which she briefly summarized, referred to concrete initiatives by the Fund in implementation of its mandate and contained recommendations for the focus of future action. The sponsors considered that its adoption would make an important contribution towards the Fund's work on behalf of women's rights and gender equality.

Agenda item 107: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/54/3, A/54/69-E/1999/8 and Add.1, A/54/289 and 340, A/C.3/54/2, A/C.3/54/L.3-L.6)

Agenda item 108: International drug control (*continued*) (A/54/3 and 186, A/54/293-E/1999/19, A/54/314-S/1999/942 and A/C.3/54/L.7)

9. **Mr. Jassim** (Bahrain) said that his delegation wished to thank the Executive Director of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) for his valuable introductory statement. Drugs were a plague that affected all societies without exception. In view of the threat which that problem posed to economic and social development, Bahrain was determined to control drugs. The steps that it had taken included the establishment of a rehabilitation centre, school consciousness-raising programmes, media broadcasts on the dangers of drugs, and the introduction of the death penalty or life imprisonment for drug traffickers.

10. His delegation wished to support the statements made on the subject of the death penalty by a number of States, including Singapore and Egypt, considering it the right of every State to promulgate the legislation appropriate to its culture and religious principles. He also wished to stress the importance of the principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States. Bahrain had taken a number of drug control measures in cooperation with regional States and was a party to the relevant international conventions. He was confident that strengthened international cooperation and tireless endeavours would succeed in controlling that plague.

11. **Mr. Caldas De Moura** (Brazil) stressed the importance of international cooperation on transnational organized crime. Despite resource constraints, Brazil had been relentless in its efforts to combat crime; most recently, it became a party to a multilateral treaty on small arms. A revision of domestic law had been accompanied by measures against corruption, drug trafficking, money laundering and weapons smuggling, with greater emphasis now on prevention. Civil society had called for tougher regulations on small arms, leading to disarmament campaigns in cities and trade bans in certain Brazilian states. A national public security strategy was also being elaborated to coordinate the efforts of law enforcement agencies in combating the closely interrelated problems of drug trafficking and organized crime.

12. Anti-drug strategies must be multifaceted if they were to deal with prevention, treatment and rehabilitation as well as repression. Moreover, for the war on drugs to succeed, it must be waged according to the agreed principle of shared responsibility. The challenge was formidable, however the

international community had never been better armed to fight transnational crime, given the high degree of consensus prevailing. That consensus must now be translated into joint action.

13. **Mr. Bocalandro** (Argentina) thanked Mr. Arlacchi for his introductory statement and for the important work done by the Centre for International Crime Prevention under his dynamic leadership. His delegation subscribed fully to the comments made by the representative of Mexico on behalf of the Rio Group and commended the Mexican delegation for its efficient conduct of the negotiations on the draft omnibus resolution on the drug problem, which his own delegation wished to sponsor.

14. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly had reoriented the fight against the global drug problem, setting the strategy in that sphere for the opening decades of the new millennium. At that session, the President of Argentina had stressed the importance that his country attached to the principle of shared responsibility in fighting drugs and the fact that Argentina felt that the time was ripe to consider internationalizing the prosecution of drug trafficking.

15. Argentina fully supported the decisions reached at the special session and had therefore participated in the negotiations that had culminated in the Economic and Social Council's adoption of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which the General Assembly was gratifyingly about to adopt. Argentina also welcomed the work done by the inter-sessional working group of the forty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

16. The prevention and punishment of organized crime, especially the elaboration of the draft convention and the related protocols, were further matters of great importance to his country. A text submitted by Argentina and another submitted by the United States of America formed the basis for the draft protocol on trafficking in, and illicit transport of women and children. Argentina hoped that the convention would be finalized as soon as possible and that it would not be limited to issues of cooperation between States, but would also address the definition of common legal criteria for the categorization and punishment of offences.

17. The Centre for International Crime Prevention had demonstrated its efficacy through, *inter alia*, its elaboration of the global programmes for the assessment of transnational organized crime, corruption and trafficking in human beings. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was a natural forum for discussing and dealing with those three problems, as well as crime prevention, penal systems,

youth justice and the like. It was to be congratulated on its hard work in preparation for the Tenth Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. Proof of Argentina's support for the Commission could be seen in the two seminars which the country had held on community participation in crime prevention. At the meetings, which had facilitated interaction between the authorities, academics and civil society, international experts had outlined a series of approaches and recommendations concerning crime prevention that would be discussed at the Vienna Congress.

18. **Mr. Al-Saidi** (Kuwait) said that the comprehensive statement made by the Executive Director of UNDCP had made clear the ever-growing dimensions of the problems facing every society as a result of drugs and international crime. Kuwait had promulgated drug-control legislation that covered all aspects of the problem. It did not, however, treat drug addicts as criminals, but provided them with rehabilitation facilities. It had established a national drug control committee responsible for policy on that issue, and was making every effort to educate the general public about the dangers posed by drugs.

19. Non-governmental organizations in Kuwait were playing an important part in the fight against drugs and in providing social and health care for addicts. The twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, held in 1998, had given a new, international dimension to drug control. Alternative development programmes must be established in countries where illicit drug crops were grown, and the problem of supply and demand must be solved.

20. The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provided that countries which had not abolished the death penalty should impose it only for the most serious crimes. In accordance with that provision, Kuwait imposed the death penalty for drug trafficking. Every State that chose to do so had the right to impose the death penalty. He therefore regretted the reintroduction before the General Assembly by the European Union of the issue of the death penalty, on which there was a well-known lack of consensus. He urged the European Union to understand and accept that lack of consensus, and respect the opinions of others.

21. **Ms. Cossa** (Mozambique) said that her delegation wished to associate itself with the statement made by Swaziland on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC). Mozambique, another transit country, was also faced with the problems of drug trafficking and consumption. The Government had responded by introducing the necessary legislative machinery. Thanks also to the establishment of a centralized institutional mechanism

for policy advocacy and interministerial coordination with branches throughout the country, considerable drug seizures had been made and increasing numbers of drug traffickers were being arrested and detained. It was a government priority to educate young people about drugs and provide for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers.

22. An issue of concern for developing countries like her own was the weakness of institutions responsible for border controls. Her delegation thus urged the international community to provide financial support for the training of customs officers and drug law enforcement personnel. In that connection, the efforts of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) were most welcome. Regional and international cooperation was indispensable for reducing the spread of drugs; it was in that context that new laws on extradition and money laundering were being drafted. Committed to building a better future for generations to come, Mozambique was determined to play its part in a global war against drugs.

23. **Mr. Sergiwa** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that his delegation wished to thank the Executive Director of UNDCP for his introductory statement on the two agenda items under discussion. International organized crime and its destructive effects on societies could not be dealt with by any one country in isolation. Strengthened international cooperation was therefore essential. Developed countries had a responsibility to provide technical, scientific and economic assistance to developing countries in order to combat crime. Unfortunately, some States took no part in the fight against transnational organized crime and failed to control money laundering operations in their territory.

24. His country was a party to all the relevant international conventions, and had enacted drug control legislation. His delegation affirmed the sovereign right of States to decide upon the legislative system that was appropriate for its society and capable of controlling national and transnational criminal activity. He therefore considered the draft resolution introduced by the European Union concerning the abolition of the death penalty as an infringement of that sovereign right and an attempt by some States to impose their values and laws on other States, ignoring the existence of other points of view.

25. If that was an attempt on the part of the States concerned to show respect for human life, they should recall that victims also had rights: the right to life of criminals could not be bought at the expense of innocent people. In his country, the death penalty was only imposed on those who represented a threat to society. He was optimistic that the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime

and the Treatment of Offenders would adopt strategies for the strengthening of international cooperation in controlling organized crime and would provide support for developing countries in combating all types of crime.

26. **Mr. Badrul Hisham** (Malaysia) said that his delegation associated itself fully with the statement made by Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). Malaysia — a transit country and not a producer of drugs — was active in fostering regional and international cooperation in reducing demand and supply. The previous year had seen a significant increase in the number of Malaysian drug addicts. The Government had responded with a national drug strategy which aimed to create a drug-free generation by the year 2023. Given that crime threatened a country's stability, security, economic growth and development, the prime responsibility for fighting it lay with the national government. States had a sovereign right to determine their own legal systems, and it was in that context that Malaysia — a democratically elected Government reflecting the people's will — had made drug trafficking a capital offence.

27. Advances in modern communications made bilateral, regional and international coordination on crime all the more essential, particularly in regard to extradition, illicit trafficking and the smuggling of illegal migrants. The technology existed for improving information-sharing. Malaysia, for its part, stood ready to render assistance to any country engaged in combating transnational crime. Malaysia aimed to participate in regional efforts to counter money-laundering — *inter alia*, through information-sharing. It was also considering introducing legislation at the domestic level. Moreover, the Central Bank of Malaysia was taking steps to set up a working group to coordinate efforts in the financial sector, including through the promotion of public awareness of money laundering.

28. Malaysia welcomed measures to ensure the fair treatment of women by the criminal justice system. Domestic violence in Malaysia was now considered a criminal offence and penalized accordingly. Furthermore, a number of programmes had been implemented to raise awareness among men and women of their legal rights. While a crime-free world was an evident utopia, Malaysia would continue its efforts towards that goal, and the use of capital punishment was an integral part of those efforts.

29. **Mr. Bae Young Han** (Republic of Korea), speaking on item 107, said that great strides had been made that year by the international community with the commencement of formal negotiations on the draft convention against transnational organized crime. Despite the important

groundwork already laid, there remained the task of eliminating the loopholes in countries' diverse legal systems, which were exploited by international crime. It was to be hoped that the political commitment of the international community would steer the consultations towards a successful conclusion. The Republic of Korea would be pressing for adoption of the instrument the following year. The Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) should receive additional resources from the Organization's regular budget to reflect its enlarged mandate; the Republic of Korea, for its part, would be increasing its voluntary contribution to the Fund in the year 2000.

30. His delegation welcomed the fact that the three projects adopted by CICP, dealing with illegal trafficking in human beings, corruption, and organized crime, reflected the suggestion made by the Republic of Korea the previous year that limited resources called for a more focused, goal-oriented approach. It was to be hoped that the Centre would continue to prioritize its activities and avoid duplication among projects. Of those projects, his Government placed particular emphasis on fighting corruption. Since corruption distorted competition between national economies, it required a multilateral response, which could most appropriately be spearheaded by CICP. The Republic of Korea was satisfied with the preparations for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, particularly the drafting of the Vienna declaration which should provide impetus to common efforts to build a safer global community.

31. Referring to item 108, he stressed the importance of adhering to the political and financial commitments made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem. The progress since made in reducing illicit drug supply and demand was most encouraging as was the agreement among Member States on guidelines for reporting on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and on the follow-up to the special session. The Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development would help further national alternative development projects, which had met with considerable success in a number of countries thanks to strong domestic political will, and international support. There was no room, however, for complacency. As technological changes redefined the illicit drug market, it was imperative that the international community should sustain its commitment to information sharing and timely re-evaluation of the scope of substance control. The efforts by UNDCP, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the World Customs Organization (WCO) to develop a database

for those purposes were most welcome. In view of its crucial role in countering the drug problem, it was essential that additional resources be allocated to UNDCP and that its long-term funding be secured. In conclusion, the Republic of Korea reiterated its commitment to international crime prevention and drug control efforts.

32. Ms. Aghadjanian (Armenia) said that her delegation aligned itself with the statement made by Kazakhstan on behalf of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). No country was immune to the new security challenges posed by illicit drugs, organized crime and terrorism. Such issues had not been foreseen when the Charter of the United Nations had been drafted. The international community must therefore provide the same leadership and commitment applied to older problems. It was universally acknowledged that only by working together could States hope to deal with a situation which had no historical precedent.

33. Armenia was a party to the relevant international conventions, and was working to strengthen its legal framework with a view to fighting drug addiction and trafficking. While control over the regulation of all aspects of the production and supply of drugs and psychotropic substances had been tightened in health care and scientific institutions and in the chemical industry, severely weakened institutional accountability, as well as an underdeveloped system for formulating and implementing regulations impeded control and oversight. Over the past six years, narcotics-related crime had increased by 150 per cent; and the amount of illicit drugs seized had increased thirty-fold. Seventy per cent of the narcotics confiscated in Armenia originated abroad. Armenia had become a transit country for drug trafficking and lacked the technical capacity to control the problem. International cooperation was vital to that end.

34. Armenia was in the process of formulating a comprehensive drug control strategy taking into account the Global Programme of Action being advanced by UNDCP. Her Government was particularly concerned to reduce drug abuse among young people and high-risk segments of the population; families, society as a whole, civil society and the mass media had an important role to play in that regard, as did the education system. New and fragile States were particularly vulnerable to the drug trade and organized crime. Like other countries in transition, Armenia had suffered a sharp decline in living conditions. Job scarcity and low salaries only increased the temptation for people to "earn a quick income". Moreover, the country's economic system currently lacked risk-sustaining mechanisms such as insurance, a developed labour market and a stable social security system. The devastating effects of the 1988 earthquake continued to exacerbate those problems, as did

the burden of 350,000 refugees from neighbouring Azerbaijan. Despite such constraints on resources, Armenia was elaborating new approaches to combat drugs and had recently established a coordinating mechanism within the Government as well as an electronic database on drug trafficking.

35. Much work remained to be done. Experience had shown that no matter how many drug pushers were caught, shipments seized and fields eradicated, drugs would continue to be produced while the demand remained. Long-term progress depended on a balanced approach to the issues of demand and supply. Concluding on a positive note, she said that there was a renewed sense among the international community that together it might be possible to make a world of difference in the health of nations and the lives of people.

36. Ms. Newell (Secretary of the Committee) referred delegates to the Web page of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (<http://www.unhcr.ch>) for unedited versions of human rights reports submitted to the General Assembly.

The meeting rose at 4.45 p.m.